



Bloom Energy

Bloom Energy, based in the Silicon Valley, provides breakthrough solid oxide fuel cell technology that produces clean, reliable, affordable onsite power. Bloom's solution is derived from a common sand-like powder and is ultimately able to produce clean, reliable, affordable power from a wide range of renewable or traditional fuels. Their Energy Servers™ are among the most efficient energy generators on the planet and allow for significantly reduced electricity costs and dramatically lower greenhouse gas emissions. While developing these alternative energy solutions, the company realized the limitations of its existing network and sought out ways to improve the infrastructure.



Bloom's Sunnyvale headquarters, which consists of five remote buildings, previously relied on free space optical solutions for network connectivity. The solutions were extremely sensitive to alignment issues, and changes in weather regularly caused misalignment. The optical solutions lost connectivity about once a week, interrupting voice and email communication between buildings and causing extreme user and IT frustration.

After engaging in a thorough evaluation process for alternative network connectivity solutions, Bloom tasked Pacific Communications, a value-added distributor that specializes in end-to-end wireless network solutions, with the installation of several BridgeWave GE60 gigabit wireless links. The links are now supporting voice, file transfer, email and Internet access on Bloom's campus.

The links have eliminated the weekly network outages, leading to an overall increase in IT staff productivity as fewer resources and less time is spent getting the network back up, allowing Bloom staff to function effectively without interruption.

CHALLENGES:

- Needed to eliminate repeated interruptions in network connectivity caused by an extremely sensitive optical solution
- Required high bandwidth low-latency connectivity to support voice, file transfer, email and Internet access
- Sought to implement new solution quickly without exorbitant costs

BRIDGEWAVE SOLUTION:

- GE60 wireless links

BENEFITS:

- Fiber-equivalent performance without the cost associated with trenching and leasing fiber
- Overall increase in IT staff productivity due to less network downtime
- BridgeWave solution paid for itself in just four months relative to a leased-line solution

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"We looked for a solution that was not affected by changes in the environment and offered long-term stability while improving throughput. BridgeWave offered the best price and performance based on capability and we are pleased with the overall robustness of the system."

*- Chris Motta,
Director of IT
Bloom Energy*