



Eaton helps data center achieve Colocation 2.0 distinction

Location:
Atlanta, Ga.

Segment:
Colocation

Problem:
As T5 moved into the retail colocation space, the company required a data center solutions provider capable of quickly delivering flexible, reliable and efficient product lines.

Solution:
Eaton® Paramount™ Enclosures, ePDU® G3s, Cages, B-Line series F.A.S.T.™ underfloor system with Flextray™ cable management, B-Line series Ladder Racks.

Results:
Eaton not only met all of T5's prerequisites, but was able to provide a one-stop shopping experience with a coordinated support approach.

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David Gruber, senior project manager

Background

T5 builds, owns and operates server-ready, single- and multi-tenant data centers to meet the demands of corporate users. At its seven locations throughout the U.S., the company provides state-of-the-art facilities in a scalable format that are built, maintained and operated to ensure customers' mission-critical applications remain up and running at all times.

The recently opened T5@Atlanta is a purpose-built, server-ready multi-tenant data center offering concurrently maintainable infrastructure to support companies with a wide variety of data suite size and density requirements, ranging from secure cabinets to private cages or dedicated turnkey suites. The 100,485-square-foot, Tier III-plus facility marks T5's entry into the retail space of colocation.

"T5 was originally a provider of wholesale data center services — space, power and cooling," explains Craig McKesson, the company's EVP, Colocation and Cloud Solutions. "Over the last 18 months, we've found that many of our core enterprise customers who are buying IT services are looking for a full solution. Things they have typically done themselves, they are now starting to look for in an outsourced model. The Atlanta site was a natural evolution to address our customers' needs."

Challenge

While constructing the new data center from the ground up, T5 embraced a lofty vision. "One of our biggest drivers, as we looked at the evolution of colocation, was that we wanted to essentially be Enterprise Colocation 2.0," McKesson says. "When it came to identifying partners and equipment to procure, we wanted to make sure the quality was commensurate with the expectations of our customers and our brand."



T5@Atlanta

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Solution

T5 discovered that Eaton offered everything it desired in a data center solutions provider.

"In addition to the quality of products, we really appreciated Eaton's flexibility and speed to market," reveals David Gruber, T5's senior project manager.

"Eaton's variety of products was a huge factor in our being able to accomplish what we were trying to do," adds McKesson.

To begin, T5 deployed 100 Eaton Paramount Enclosures, which offer a scalable and modular building-block design to enhance overall investment and ensure quick reconfigurations, while minimizing downtime. The enclosures are not only available in a variety of heights, depths and widths, but can be customized in white, as T5 opted to do.

Having recently introduced a light gray Paramount series, Eaton is responding to an increasing desire among data center customers for lighter colored enclosures, which facilitate better visibility, greater efficiency and many times, preferred aesthetics. "Being able to purchase a white enclosure had major appeal," McKesson confirms. "It's another example of the high quality that Eaton displays."

T5 is cashing in on the trend of gray or white enclosures, which, compared to their darker counterparts, have been shown to reduce lighting energy consumption by 30 percent, as well as require up to 30 percent fewer fixtures. "We appreciate the ability to deploy a color scheme that's more targeted to our brand and environment, and we like the efficiency benefits of white."

The lighter colored models also make it easier for technicians to see equipment while working inside the enclosure. "Our customers have been giving us very positive feedback about how easy it is to work inside the cabinet and how the enclosures create a brighter, more worker-friendly environment," McKesson reveals.



Eaton's Paramount Enclosure System

At build out, the Atlanta data hall was slated to encompass 300 enclosures, quite possibly in two different sizes. While T5 initially deployed 24-inch-wide Paramount models, the company is considering offering a 30-inch-wide option, as well. "We are seeing a lot of interest from our customers in the wider cabinet, and having the ability to deploy both widths would be a definite benefit," Gruber says.

"We really value Eaton's ability to take something and adjust it to what we are specifically looking for," McKesson adds. "For example, changing the colors of caps and edge pieces of the enclosures and customizing the containment solution to fit exactly what we were trying to accomplish in this market."

In addition to the Paramount enclosures, T5 purchased a pair of large Eaton cages, which were subdivided into smaller sections. Built to the same durable standards as its enclosure systems, Eaton's rugged steel cage construction ensures structural integrity with a unique uni-body design with 3/8-inch perforations large enough to provide ample ventilation while maintaining security. The modular cages are reconfigurable to scale to future requirements, while options such as segmenting a large cage or adding on to an existing configuration, allow users to easily adapt to changing needs.

"The cage sizes matched up very well with our layout, allowing for a very efficient floor plan," Gruber notes.

The colocation provider selected Eaton's new third-generation (G3) ePDUs to provide best-in-class power distribution to enable effective monitoring and control of their rack environments. The G3 is not only easy to install, but helps reduce operating costs while increasing reliability.



Eaton ePDU G3

"We're always trying to maximize the space within a cabinet, especially considering the bigger servers being deployed," Gruber says, praising the G3's ability to measure power consumption at the outlet level and gain Level 3 power usage effectiveness (PUE). "There are a lot of benefits to such accurate monitoring and management features."

T5 also invested in Eaton's B-Line series F.A.S.T.™ System, an innovative way to support and manage cables in raised-floor applications. The solution's stands and accessories not only provide a variety of options and quick installation, but the product doesn't attach to the raised floor structure, allowing installation either before or after the floor is in place. "We used this in previous facilities and had great success with it," Gruber says. "It is very easy to install and flexible to use."



B-Line series F.A.S.T.System

Furthermore, to provide a cable runway for communication pathways, T5 selected Eaton's B-Line Series Tubular Cable Runway, which offers ultimate flexibility with the ability to mount to ceilings, walls, floors, relay racks and electronic enclosures.

T5 has not only been impressed with the flexibility, quality and reliability of Eaton's various product lines, but also the one-stop shop afforded by the data center solutions provider. "A very big driver in our overall decision-making process was the ability to go to one, single point of contact and have him leverage his management to the rest of the Eaton team," McKesson acknowledges. "We didn't have to call six different people to procure six different products, which is a huge benefit."

The colocation provider also sees tremendous value and efficiency being able to source so many solutions through one supplier. "Having all of these different products under the Eaton line not only shows well, but also makes any future modifications we may desire very easy," Gruber explains. "If we need to move something around or change it, we come to one person."

The ability to procure and deploy equipment quickly was another standout. "Eaton's lead times and flexible scheduling helped us tremendously as far as getting everything we needed to the site and ready to go," McKesson reveals. "This was critical to our success."

Results

"Overall, one of the biggest factors was that the Eaton team had a very flexible approach to what we were looking for," McKesson sums up. "We are trying to provide flexibility and speed-to-market opportunities for our customers, and the underlying theme is to be able to manage their deployments of all sizes, from low densities to high. It's not just about our Day 1 deployment, but looking at Day 2 and how we're going to grow and produce going forward".

"Working with Eaton has been a great overall experience," McKesson emphasizes, "and I'm sure it will continue to be."

With Eaton, T5 was able to successfully achieve its Colocation 2.0 initiative, thanks to the ability to:

- Capitalize on Eaton's adaptable design approach, rapid time to market and highly efficient product lines
- Ease procurement and deployment of an array of data center solutions with a single point-of-contact and one-stop shopping experience through Eaton
- Deploy high-quality, well-built, easy-to-access enclosures and cages
- Gain efficiencies and aesthetic appeal from light-colored enclosures
- Implement cutting-edge power distribution with Eaton's ePDUs
- Easily support and manage under-floor cabling requirements with Eaton's B-Line series F.A.S.T. cable runway
- Gain ultimate flexibility of cable runway with Eaton's B-Line Series Tubular Cable Runway



Eaton Cages provide secure data center partitioning

For more information, please visit: Eaton.com/datacenter

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