TRIPP·LITE

CASE STUDY

AMD's Mission-Critical Servers and Testing Equipment Protected by Tripp Lite

AMD

SUMMARY

Customer
AMD develops computer processors and related technologies for commercial and consumer markets. Headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, it has approximately 11,000 employees in 80 offices worldwide.

Goal
1) Protect servers and testing devices from downtime caused by power problems; 2) Maintain time-to-market goals for video chips.

Solution
Tripp Lite SmartOnline™ Hot-Swappable UPS Systems
• SU6000RT4U
Web Management Accessory Cards
• SNMPWEBCARD

Results
*1) Complete power protection for AMD's Automated Test Stress Lab.
2) Zero downtime resulting in achievement of time-to-market goals.*

TRIPP·LITE

Powering and Connecting
Your World

1111 W. 35th Street
Chicago, IL 60609
773.869.1111
tripplite.com

ISO 9001
CERTIFIED QUALITY SYSTEMS

Over 95 YEARS
Manufacturing
Excellence

Customer
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (AMD) is a semiconductor company that develops computer processors and related technologies for commercial and consumer markets. Headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, AMD's main products include microprocessors, motherboard chipsets, embedded processors and graphic processors for servers, workstations and personal computers, and processor technologies for game consoles.

With approximately 11,000 employees and 80 offices worldwide, AMD is the second-largest global supplier of microprocessors based on x86 architecture, and the third-largest supplier of graphics processing units. In 2007, AMD ranked eleventh among semiconductor manufacturers with approximately $6 billion in revenue.

Goal
After his team was tasked with analyzing data from video chips in developmental and production stages, AMD Engineering Services Group Manager Frank Spagnuolo set two goals: 1) provide complete power protection for the mission-critical 124 test stations and 6 servers at AMD's Automated Test Stress Lab in Markham, Ontario; and 2) meet the company's time-to-market goals by utilizing continual power to assure quality test results.

"It's crucial for us to have reliable power protection during video chip testing," said Spagnuolo. "Twenty-four hour continuous testing is critical to ensure that we gather as much data as possible during R&D product cycles. Downtime could affect us in two ways. First, it could set back deployment and testing by weeks, resulting in major costs and delays for AMD. Second, downtime could compromise our time-to-market goals, which rely on the flawless execution of testing procedures."

In need of a reliable and cost-efficient power protection solution, Spagnuolo first contacted another UPS manufacturer. He found, however, that the company could not deliver a solution within the specified timeframe. Following a recommendation from his local reseller, Sustema, he then turned to Tripp Lite. After consulting with Don Monahan, Tripp Lite Regional Sales Manager for Eastern Canada, to determine which solution would best meet AMD's needs, Spagnuolo chose the SmartOnline™ Hot-Swappable Modular UPS Systems.

Solution
AMD installed 20 SmartOnline Hot-Swappable Modular UPS Systems (Model: SU6000RT4U), each fitted with a Web Management Accessory Card (Model: SNMPWEBCARD).

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SU6000RT4U SmartOnline Hot-Swappable Modular UPS Systems

• Protect servers from the harmful effects of blackouts, brownouts, overvoltages and line noise

• Convert incoming AC power to DC, and then reconvert it back into full-time, pure sine wave AC output

• Auto/manual bypass allows hot-swappable UPS replacement without powering off connected equipment

• Offer expandable runtime with external battery packs, enabling capacity to be increased as needed

• Communication ports and included PowerAlert software provide complete network management and control

SNMPWEBCARD

• Enables the UPS to be remotely controlled as a managed device on the network

• Web interface provides remote viewing of site electrical data, UPS self-test and alert logs, electrical problems and more

• Permits remote reboots of locked devices without interrupting power to other loads

Results

Selecting Tripp Lite to protect its test stations and servers benefitted AMD. Shortly after the Tripp Lite UPS Systems were installed, the company experienced a series of power problems. "We did have some power fluctuations and power outages, but the Tripp Lite UPS Systems kept us up and running with no loss of test time," Frank Spagnuolo explained. "That alone was reassuring and showed that our power protection investment was well worth the money spent."

He added that the entire Tripp Lite experience proved beneficial to AMD, from the product support the company received to the achievement of its power protection goals. "Not only did Tripp Lite and Sustema understand our needs and work closely with us to ensure that those needs were met," he said, "but the Tripp Lite UPS Systems were very easy to install."

"For AMD's video chip testing project time was of the essence, not only for installing power protection solutions but also for achieving quality test results afterward," Spagnuolo continued. "When another UPS manufacturer couldn't deliver its equipment on time, Tripp Lite stepped up and we were able to install quickly. As a result, our Automated Test Stress lab has been up and running with zero downtime and our time-to-market goals have been continually met—all because our servers and test stations are completely protected from power problems by Tripp Lite!"