LynTec

A SIMPLE, AFFORDABLE SOLUTION TO LIGHTING CONTROL RELAY PANEL UPGRADES

Lyntec RPCR automated relay panels offer an open, advanced platform for cost-efficient power control

Do you have an installed lighting control replay panel that's over five years old? It might surprise you to learn that most of these relay panels are proprietary systems and can become antiquated after just a few years. And when they start to fail, buying replacement relays is a costly endeavor because of their proprietary premium or worse, are no longer being manufactured. If they're no longer being supported, this is when the manufacturer usually proposes their latest, expensive full-system as an upgrade. For most houses of worship and commercial organizations that's an unreasonable investment for a system that may not carry them far into the future. That's where LynTec's RPCR automated relay panel comes in.

Most recently LynTec worked with contractor Facilities Services Group (FSG) to solve this all-too-common relay failure scenario. The company manages a two-story commercial building that houses a global worship headquarters. The building's four proprietary lighting control panels were six years old and in that short amount of time, had begun to fail. An estimated 30 percent of the 120 installed relays were no longer functioning. Originally FSG contacted the manufacturer to get replacement relays, but the manufacturer was no longer supporting the system. As an alternative, they offered their latest version of their proprietary system. This option was well over budget and didn't factor in high cost of labor to rewire the old system to make way for the new system.

Not being able to afford the new system proposal — or wanting to box themselves in again with yet another proprietary system with questionable short-term support — FSG had to start leaving the building lights on full time. This negated the energy-saving benefits of a circuit-level control system and cut the lifespan of their LED lighting elements, which meant they were paying more for their utilities and having to pay sooner than expected for expensive LEDs and the labor to install them. Knowing that leaving the lights on wouldn't be a viable, long-term solution, FSG set about finding an alternative and discovered LynTec.

LynTec's RPCR automated relay panels are compact and can easily installed in retrofit applications ranging from multi-floor commercial buildings to small houses of worship. The RPCR features a system architecture with two key features: an open control platform and compact size that allows it to fit into an existing electrical enclosure.

"With the RPCR panel, all the electrician had to do was disconnect the wires from the old replay panels, take out the old interior, drop it in, and quickly reconnect it to the existing electrical wiring," said Jeff Wise, Service Manager with FSG. "The RPCR was up and running in a matter of hours without replacing the entire electrical cabinet. But even more, it gave us remote, web-enabled access capabilities that we didn't have before with our old system. It was literally plug-and-play."

Using readily available Panasonic Lighting relays, the RPCR delivers state-of-the-art power and architectural lighting control at half of the price of most proprietary systems. It features an onboard astronomical clock, an onboard web-server that easily allows organizations to set the parameters of their system without hiring a programmer, and from a mobile device or computer, provides immediate touch-button control of the system remotely. This solution eliminates proprietary relays, allowing any electricians to easily buy and install new relays from any electrical distributor. As a result, it provides an affordable, advanced lighting control solution that will meet growing circuit needs well into the future.

"LynTec's RPCR is the easiest, lowest cost way to upgrade an architectural lighting control system. The other systems were overpriced for the limited lifespan of the system. And now we have even more capabilities that we didn't have before that allow us to reap the maximum energy efficiency and save on maintenance and repair. It's truly an exceptional system from a company that went beyond our needs and added incredible value to how we manage and control the architectural lighting," said Wise.

MORE ON LYNTEC'S RPCR RELAY PANELS

LynTec's RPCR line of remotely controlled relay panels are specifically designed to add branch circuit control and monitoring to any existing circuit breaker panel regardless of brand, make, or model. The RPCR is equipped with a web-enabled, browser-based interface that allows users to easily setup, troubleshoot, control, and monitor relay status remotely across existing networks while adding the benefit of on/off control to retrofit requirements. Available in 8, 16, 24, 32, 48 and 64 single- or double-pole options, the RPCR series provides intelligent, customized electrical power control for any retrofit circuit control requirements. Easily added to any existing electrical panel, or as a replacement for existing lighting control relay panels, the RPCR solution makes installations more flexible, efficient, and cost-effective. This combination of remote electrical control and incredible installation flexibility facilitates applications including LED lighting as well as powered amplifiers, and energy management programs within houses of worship, schools, performing arts centers, auditoriums, and other large assembly spaces.

With these power control solutions, they not only reap the myriad of cost and energy benefits but they allow users to remotely access and control to their lighting system. A built-in web server provides system intelligence that allows users to control an entire installation that's connected to the panel. From any browser-based device, users can seamlessly power up and down their systems, eliminating the need for onsite personnel to manually switch off the equipment or verify its off. The intelligent circuit control device can also send alert notifications via text or email to warn users of voltage anomalies.

These advances also benefit integrators. With the ability to interface with multiple protocols, next-generation electrical panel technology can also allow integrators to set up and divide circuit breakers into specific zones. Consequently, a single controller can operate up to four panels of motorized circuit breakers, which translates to as many as 168 circuits. These can then be easily sub-sectioned into distinct zones and operated by different protocols. For instance, both moving and multicolored lights could be controlled with DMX within a church's sanctuary area while overhead lights could be operated using an energy management platform, TCP/IP, RS-232, or contact closures. This ability to mix and match protocols on a per-zone basis is a great example of the enormous flexibility available to houses of worship, education, performance spaces, and other commercial building applications needing flexible zoned control.

The interface also provides sequential on/off switching and scheduling, emergency override activation, and dependable brownout protection. For even greater setup flexibility, the RPCR is compatible with all popular control systems and provides the ability to control relays directly from TCP/IP, DMX, RS-232, or contact enclosure systems.

CONCLUSION: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

With the growing use of LED lighting within architectural lighting systems, lighting power management and control is a critical part of the cost equation to ensure maximum energy efficiencies. LynTec's RPCR remotely controlled relay panels are an affordable lighting control upgrade solution that maximizes the life of the system without adding dramatic cost to the total cost of ownership. If you're looking at needing to upgrade your system, let LynTec show you how the RPCR panels can improve your system management, add new control capabilities, and cut down on the cost of service and maintenance. Find a LynTec representative in your area today.