

SENS DC Power Systems Weather Hurricane Mitch

Robert Paulley left Nicaragua's telecommunications industry in good shape.

And just in time.

Three days after Paulley left Central America, Hurricane Mitch devastated Nicaragua and its neighboring countries. Thousands were killed, millions were left homeless, and damage to industry and infrastructure reached \$1 billion. But much of the rural telecommunications industry, powered by SENS weatherproof DC power systems, survived Mitch's mayhem.

Paulley, an engineering consultant for Chelsea Computing Personnel, was in Nicaragua to evaluate the operations of ENITEL. As the nation's rural telecommunications provider, ENITEL services remote communities across the Southwest quarter of Nicaragua.

"ENITEL's system provides commercial, private and emergency communications. Half of the communities can only be reached after two days' travel over rough jungle tracks, then by water, or vice versa," said Paulley.

Installed by Lucent Technologies in 1994, SENS DC power systems continue to ensure ENITEL's non-stop DC power.

"SENS are some of the best DC power systems in the world. All the sites supplied by SENS DC power systems are working well, despite the most extreme weather conditions for several centuries," said Paulley, a telecommunications engineer for 36 years.

According to Paulley, SENS weatherproof DC power systems operate in extreme temperatures (40°-50° C), high humidity (80 to 90 percent), frequent electrical storms and "diabolical rates" of rain (up to two feet in two hours). SENS 63 Battery Power Systems provide non-stop battery-backed DC power.

"It is really a testimony to the SENS engineering. SENS weatherproof DC power systems are reliable way beyond the guaranteed operating conditions," Paulley said after returning to his company's headquarters in England. "SENS elegant design is deceptively simple."

To overcome the problems of frequent electrical storms, ENITEL technicians have increased the battery amperage to levels higher than industry recommendations. "I would have expected problems due to the inflated loads, but that has not been the case. The SENS DC power systems have very effective current limiting that keeps them operating reliably," Paulley said.

Paulley expects Nicaragua's rural telecommunications industry to recover from Mitch's onslaught, thanks in large part to the performance of SENS weatherproof DC power systems.

