April 13th, 2020

General Motors and Starline-Legrand partner to build ventilators in respond to COVID-19 Pandemic

In just under 11 days, Detroit based global automaker General Motors (GM) sourced materials, trained 1,000 employees, and reconfigured its manufacturing facility in Kokomo, Indiana to assemble 30,000 Ventec V+Pro critical care ventilators. Starline Track Busway by Legrand proudly contributed to this extraordinary accomplishment by GM by providing a key flexible power distribution system in record time.

Starting with a rudimentary but thorough sketch, installing contractor Conti Electric reached out to Starline Rep agency RC Merchant on April 2nd about sourcing 120 plug-in units needed to provide power to the dedicated locations in the new ventilator manufacturing area. Within 12 hours, Starline’s engineering department designed and presented two customized designs and drawings. Upon approvals from user, Starline’s operations department sourced the necessary components and initiated order production, now with 12 additionally requested plug-in units. Shipments of completed plug-in units began April 8th, on schedule for the planned installation timeline.

With installation scheduled for Easter weekend, Conti Electric utilized 480 feet of brand new T3 225-amp busway runs already on-hand for a delayed project. Due to Starline’s ease of installation, and flexibility to position each plug-in unit at the exact point of use, the entire power distribution system installation was completed in two days to start ventilators production on April the 13th. Upon conclusion of ventilator production, GM will be able to relocate and repurpose the busway to support its automotive manufacturing operation.

Starline Track Busway is proud to contribute to life-saving manufacturing that is combating COVID-19 proliferation. As GM executive VP of Global Manufacturing Gerald Johnson stated recently: “People have moved mountains…have never seen anything like it in my career”, Starline aligned with this noble cause and is excited to see the benefits of its flexible solutions fully utilized in this application. Learn more about GM’s efforts here.