



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW TRANSFER SWITCH SAFELY DELIVERS GENERATOR POWER TO TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Product offers an economical way to safely deliver generator power to important intersections during a utility power interruption

ATLANTA – August 18, 2004 Gen/Tran Corporation (www.gen-tran.com), a leading designer and manufacturer of backup power transfer systems for residential and light commercial markets, today introduced a line of generator transfer switches that allow municipalities to keep traffic signals running at its most important intersections during a power outage. The new transfer switches are available in one- and two-pole configurations for 20, 30 and 50 amp 120 volt or 120/240 volt applications, and are intended for generators from 2500 watts to 12,500 watts.

This new product line addresses the need among municipalities for an economical way to make traffic signals “generator-ready” – providing a safe way to use a portable generator to provide backup power to traffic signal equipment. In 2002, the National Electrical Code began requiring UL Listed transfer equipment for all backup power applications where a portable or stationary generator is used. Ideal for retrofits as well as new installations, the unit mounts on the existing equipment box at the intersection, and connects to the internal wiring of the traffic signal. Installation takes less than an hour.

“For a minimal investment, cities and towns can keep traffic signals at their most critical intersections running during a utility outage by using their existing portable generators,” said Jack Mandula, Gen/Tran President. “This kind of product makes sense for regions that experience frequent outages as well as rural areas that are last to get their power restored in the event of an outage. It allows traffic to flow as usual, saving local government employees from having to direct traffic during emergencies. Because it is an economical solution, it makes sense to equip all signals with this capability just in case it is ever needed.

Installation of these traffic signal transfer switches could be funded under Homeland Security plans since they could be used to assist evacuations in the event of a terrorist action. GenTran’s traffic signal transfer switches are listed on the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) “Authorized Equipment List” (AEL) under section [10] Power Equipment – as item “10.6 – Switches, Power Transfer.” Municipalities can request Homeland Security funds through their state agency appointed to administer the funds.

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Each prewired transfer switch is housed in a raintight (NEMA 3R-rated), heavy-duty 12 gauge aluminum (Type 5052-H32) enclosure that can be surface mounted to existing signaling equipment. It incorporates a generator breaker and utility breaker, a sliding mechanical interlock that prevents both the generator and utility from feeding a circuit at the same time, and a power inlet for generator cord connection. A ground post is incorporated into the enclosure, and three combination ½" and ¾" knockouts are provided on the sides and back to accommodate installation. A #2 keyed lock makes each unit tamper-proof, and a tight-fitting hinged bottom and cover prevent nesting insects from entering.

To use the transfer switch during an outage, a worker would unlock the box, remove the cover and connect a heavy duty cord from the portable generator to the power inlet on the bottom of the transfer switch box. Then he would start up the generator, switch the "Utility" breaker to the OFF position, slide the interlock over the Utility breaker to reveal the "Generator" breaker, and switch it ON. When utility power is restored, he would switch OFF the Generator breaker, move the interlock over the Generator breaker, and turn on the Utility breaker again. An optional pilot light indicates when utility power is restored, allowing personnel to flip the breakers back to Utility mode, and pack up the generator.

Retail prices for GenTran's new traffic signal transfer switches range from \$139 to \$250, and GenTran is accepting orders now for delivery starting October 1. All models are listed by Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) to standard 1008 and are suitable for use in accordance with article 702 of the National Electrical Code ANSI/NFPA 70.

Dimensions: 6" wide x 8-3/4" high x 4-7/8" deep. Two-year warranty.

Headquartered in Alpharetta, Georgia, Gen-Tran Corporation is the nation's leading designer and manufacturer of transfer switches and accessories for backup generators for residential and light commercial applications. Almost one million GenTran transfer switches have been installed across North America to help homeowners and business owners maintain power during utility interruptions. For information call 1-888-GEN-TRAN or visit www.gen-tran.com.

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