



AURORA HEALTH CARE HEADQUARTERS



Grunau's service and maintenance team helped Aurora Health Care save money on air conditioning costs for its computer room by installing dry coolers on the roof of the facility.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT:

Description:
Computer room expansion projects at Aurora Health Care's Corporate Facility

Owner:
Aurora Health Care

Architect:
Grunau Company

Engineer:
Grunau Company

Completed:
May 2005

GRUNAU SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE TEAM COMPLETES EXPANSION PROJECTS FOR AURORA HEALTH CARE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Aurora Health Care asked Grunau's service and maintenance team to assist in two computer room expansions at its corporate facility. During the first expansion, Aurora asked Grunau to convert its air conditioning system from water to dry coolers without interruption. Aurora then appointed Grunau as the lead construction manager for the second project.

SITUATION

In 2000, Aurora wanted to convert a computer room's air conditioning system to dry coolers to save money. The company also wanted to expand the room by almost one-third. Grunau's service and maintenance team helped Aurora design a system that used reusable glycol as the coolant, reducing the expensive water costs of the old system. The situation became tricky, however, when Aurora required the switch to occur without disruption or work stoppages. To prevent turning off the air conditioning units during the afternoon, the hottest time of day, the Grunau team worked in the early morning when it was cooler and before Aurora employees arrived for work. They installed the dry coolers on the roof and ran new piping connecting the Liebert cooling units to the dry coolers. Then, Grunau switched the system from city water to glycol, cooler by cooler. In the end, Grunau expanded the computer room by 2,000 square feet and added two new cooling units, leading the construction team to a successful outcome.



Grunau's fire protection and electrical teams installed a new fire suppression system in Aurora Health Care's second computer room expansion.

In 2001, Aurora asked Grunau to assist with an update to the computer room's uninterrupted power source (UPS). The service and maintenance team supervised the installation of a larger UPS unit and generator that could accommodate the previous year's expansion and add capacity for an anticipated second expansion.

Throughout the first expansion project, and then again during the update to the computer room's UPS, the service and maintenance team called on Grunau Metals to complete specialty metals work. The metals team fabricated and installed metal platforms for the rooftop dry coolers and the indoor pumping and control systems. They also built catwalks, railings and stairs to allow easy maintenance access to equipment. In addition, the metals team helped install a platform and walkway for a fan coil unit used for backup to the UPS room cooling equipment.

Aurora was so impressed with Grunau's work and full-service capabilities that they retained the service and maintenance team as the lead construction manager on the second computer room expansion. In late 2004, Grunau began work on a 4,600 square-foot addition. The service and maintenance team once again called on Grunau Metals to supply support steel for the rooftop equipment and in the space behind the second floor office. Grunau's fire protection and electrical teams also installed new fire suppression systems. The service and maintenance team oversaw the installation of a raised floor for the underfloor HVAC system, piping and computer wiring. Afterward, they installed five new Liebert cooling units on stands in the room and four additional dry coolers on the roof. The space and systems provide more capacity than currently needed to allow for future expansion.

RESULTS

Grunau's dedication to finding the best and most cost-effective solutions has resulted in a long-standing relationship with Aurora Health Care. In addition, Grunau's full-service capabilities, creative problem-solving and concern for its clients' needs led Aurora to ask the service and maintenance team to serve as the lead construction manager for the second expansion—a significant request for a service and maintenance company. Grunau completed the second project on schedule and under budget.

FROM THE CLIENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

"We have a long-standing, solid relationship with Grunau Company because of the high quality work they produce and their responsiveness to our needs. We are a 24-hour business and Grunau works extremely hard to complete all work without any interference in our business operations, like costly computer shutdowns."

Gary Weckwerth, Director of Technical Systems – Aurora Health Care



To allow room for an underfloor HVAC system, piping and computer wiring, Grunau's service and maintenance team oversaw the installation of a raised floor for Aurora Health Care's second computer room expansion.