

AFC FIELD REPORT: Super Neutral Cable®

AFC'S SUPER NEUTRAL CABLE ADDRESSES POWER QUALITY AT NATIONS BANK PLAZA IN ATLANTA

If you have ever witnessed the breathtaking Atlanta skyline, you've seen it. Majestic and beautiful, the Nations Bank Plaza rises 55 stories out of the city, shadowing both its neighbors and its predecessors. It reigns as the tallest building in the South Eastern United States. And with the Nations Bank Plaza being so visible, planners wanted undivided attention paid to each detail. The building had to be fully functional, but at the same time spare nothing on the aesthetic level. They wanted it to be magnificent; they even had authentic rosewood marble imported from Italy for the impressive facade. Contractors clearly had their work cut out for them.

"The demands of the planners dictated that they get the building up as quickly as possible, without cutting corners on qual-

"With the restraints of regular conduit, they could never have done it."

ity," said electrical contractor, Bobby Thompson of LMI, Inc. That meant that he needed to find ways to slash time and labor without impeding the success of the project. Developers already had more than \$200 million invested. He found one of those so-



lutions in Super Neutral Cable from AFC. A metal-clad cable, Super Neutral is not the typical MC cable. Instead, it is designed and geared for computers, business equipment and electronic discharge lighting applications. Super Neutral Cable is the ideal solution when reliability is the major concern, maximum performance is demanded, space is limited and ease of installation is critical. All of these factors existed for the Nations Bank project.

"Picture a five floor

dollhouse, and you have to power each level from the bottom up," said Thompson. Cable had to come up through the center and then split off to each floor. The problem was, developers had less space to work with to preserve the aesthetic value of the project. "They were trying to feed the work station partitions, and bring enough cable through the floor," explained Thompson. "With the restraints of regular conduit, they could never have done it." But Super Neutral cable allowed them to wire directly to the office spaces, avoiding any unsightly exposed raceways.

In fact, that is one of the major benefits of using Super Neutral Cable in office buildings. The cable is manufactured in a variety of con-

figurations that match the wiring specifications of the major modular

"Time and labor costs were cut by 30 to 50 percent," said Thompson.

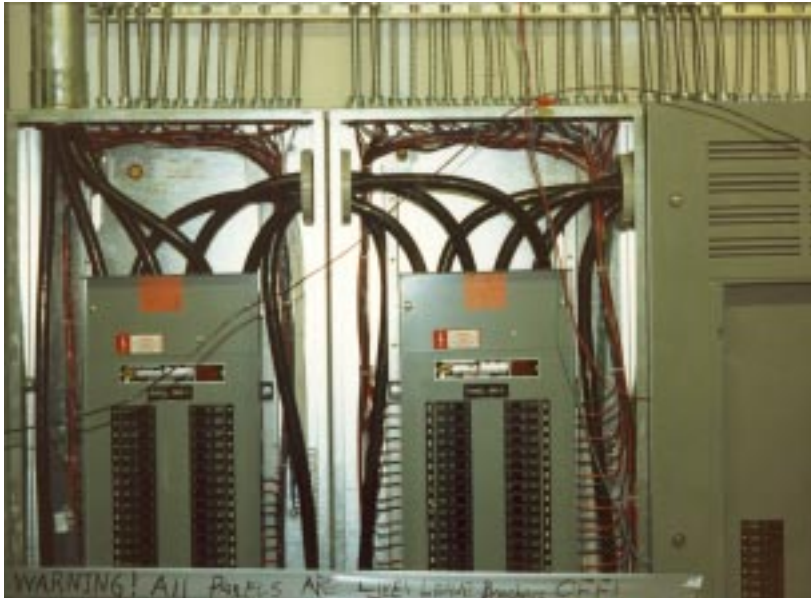
furniture manufacturers, making installation fast and easy. And, because Super Neutral has an oversized neutral or one neutral per phase, it can handle harmonic currents caused by non-linear loads from computers, office machines and similar electronic

equipment. The oversized neutral conductors are sized 150% to 200% of the phase conductor ampacity to minimize the effects of harmonics, while the neutral per phase (striped with color to match the phase conductor) accomplishes the same objective.

Super Neutral MC Cable is listed and labeled by U.L. and is ideal in commercial, industrial and utility applications. The cable system components are installed in a one-step

process so labor costs are greatly reduced. It can be routed much easier than rigid conduit. That is a special advantage when several bends are required. It can be removed, rerouted or completely relocated. It can be used under computer room floors, raised floors or overhead in the space above hung ceilings used for environmental air handling. It can also be used on branch and feeder circuits, plus power, lighting, signal and control circuits. Thompson and the others relied on Super Neutral Cable and found all of these advantages to be true. They used 200,000 feet of the cable and it was easy to install.

"Time and labor costs were cut by 30 to 50 percent," said Thompson. "The biggest thing was the time. This was a very fast track job, time was of the essence," said Thompson.



Super Neutral Cable is ideal for the integrated office of the 21st century where copiers, laser printers, PC's, and electronic ballasts can create power quality problems.

"Super Neutral Cable took the figures to the extreme, saved a lot of money." With time against them, coupled with limited space to work with and trying to make the wiring function aesthetically, pipe and wire were out of the question as options, according to

"The savings in callbacks, has been tremendous," he said.

Thompson. But when all of the dust had cleared, Super Neutral had done the trick. "Best looking cable job I've ever seen," said Thompson. "And that job has opened the eyes of other contractors and developers to the versatility and function of Super Neutral Cable," he added.

The cable has offered them other savings, as well: callbacks. Thompson has not had to return to the completed building for one repair or adjustment. He has not even had to field one phone call of that nature, and the project was completed in January, 1994.

"To date, I haven't had any problems where we've had to go back," said Thompson. "It's unusual. With that mas-

sive quantity (of product used), there's always something that can happen. Murphy's Law takes place."

"The savings in callbacks has been tremendous," he said. And that combined with all of Super Neutral Cable's other qualities has made the cable one of Thompson's favorites. "I've used it on several jobs since then, and enjoyed the savings," he said. "It's great to use."

Super Neutral MC Cable is manufactured by AFC Cable Systems, Inc, a leading designer, manufacturer and supplier of electrical distribution products, including pre-wired, armored and metal-clad electric cables, flexible wiring systems and flexible conduit and fittings for residential, industrial and commercial construction.

