CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Metering Programming & Commissioning
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas

OVERVIEW:

The University of Texas Medical Branch ("UTMB") established in 1891 as the University of Texas Medical Department, has grown from one building, 23 students and 13 faculty members to a modern health science center with more than 70 major buildings, more than 2,500 students and more than 1,000 faculty. Since its founding, UTMB has grown into what is now a major academic health sciences center of global influence, with medical, nursing, health professions and graduate biomedical schools; a world-renowned research enterprise; and a growing, comprehensive health system with hospitals on three campuses and a network of clinics.

THE CHALLENGE:

Meters had already been installed in various locations around campus by another vendor but the UTMB Energy Manager had reason to believe that the existing meters were not providing an accurate picture of what was really taking place. Most notably, the data being provided did not agree with the information provided on their utility bills. Consequently, Summa Energy was asked to perform an audit and identify the cause or causes of those inconsistencies.

PROJECT COST:

16 Utility Meters
Approx. $26,000

ISSUES FOUND:

Programming Errors
Installation Issues

RESULT:

More Accurate Data.
Energy Savings Verification
Data for Grants

FINDINGS:

Through the course of this investigation, Summa was able to identify installation issues as well as programming issues with the meters themselves. Further, since the meter data was routed through the Building Automation System (BAS), data integrity was lost and system throughput was compromised which in turn also compromised the operation of the BAS.

SOLUTION:

Summa Energy Solutions corrected the hardware installation issues and then re-programmed the meters to provide the correct data. Summa commissioned a Data Acquisition Server ("DAS") to handle all meter data collection and transmission, removing that load from the Building Automation System. The Summa solution fixed the meter data integrity issues while allowing the BAS to do its job unhindered by the meter data load. Altogether, these changes turned a system that was essentially non-functional into a trustworthy energy monitoring system that is now providing accurate utility billing verification and other benefits to the UTMB Energy Manager.