



Using 100W LED shop lights rather than 400W metal halides is freeing up 150,000W of power during the construction of the Red Wings's new stadium.

IMAGE COURTESY OF MOTOR CITY ELECTRIC

Motor City Electric, which subsequently tapped Caniff Electric for its expertise.

"Motor City Electric is a large and nationally known contractor that I've been calling on for 18 years," explained Mike Lemelin, outside sales for Caniff Electric. "Motor City reached out to its distributors to bid this project and we succeeded in securing quite a bit of work."

## TALKING SHOP

Among the projects Caniff Electric was called in to handle was the provision of the worklights that would enable crew members—currently more than two dozen contractors working day and night—to proceed with construction.

"Temporary lighting is a key need now," Lemelin confirmed. "The standard technology for this is 400W metal halide lighting, but it draws a lot of power and [access to] power is limited because the main substations on the construction site aren't energized yet. With that in mind, any way to reduce load is critical."

To help reduce the load, Lemelin opted for 100W LED worklights from Bergen Industries. "Consuming just 100W, the 500 shop lights we sourced freed up 150,000W of power that can now be used for power tools or other electrical equipment," Lemelin said. "In addition, these fixtures are lighter than metal halide systems because they don't contain a ballast, their light output is very good, they're safer and more durable, and their long life will ensure that the Motor City Electric team can use them on other projects in the future."

Mark Ireland, project manager at Motor City Electric, agreed. "Our team is very pleased with these lights—not only for the role they play in reducing overall energy consumption on the project, but also for their ease of maintenance and their ability to switch voltages from 120V to 277V (which we've had to do on this project) without having to go to each fixture and change the taps," Ireland said. "We also appreciate their long life, durability, and safety. They've reduced the amount of time we have to

## Setting up shop

*Caniff Electric teams up with Bergen Industries on LED worklights that are enabling construction of a new Detroit Red Wings stadium.* by Susan Bloom

**The Detroit Red Wings** have played their home games in Detroit's 20,000-seat Joe Louis Arena for nearly four decades—but that's about to change. Last September, the organization embarked on construction of a brand-new stadium, which promises modern amenities and a more comfortable experience for players and ticketholders alike. Called in to provide temporary lighting to enable the large crew of contractors to proceed with construction of the new arena (scheduled for completion in late 2017), specialists from Caniff Electric, Hamtramck, Mich., and high-performing LED worklights from Bergen Industries are ensuring a bright, safe, and efficient work environment.

The new \$650 million, 20,000-seat arena for the Detroit Red Wings—funded by Olympia Entertainment, owner of Little Caesars Pizza, and slated to be renamed Little Caesars Arena—is expected to feature more than 50 luxury suites; an outdoor plaza area with restaurants, retail

shops, and a new residential complex; new parking structures; and a new corporate headquarters for Little Caesars. With such a tall order and a tight timeline in play, the stadium's general contractor awarded the construction project to Detroit-based electrical contractor

## Project Spotlight

spend replacing lamps that have come in contact with water, which is a normal occurrence on a construction site.

"The ability to use a 100W LED lamp to replace 400W metal halide technology is also a huge benefit," Ireland continued. "We're able to reduce the amount of energy being consumed on a daily basis, reduce the amount of temporary construction power required from the local utility company, and increase the amount of fixtures we can put on a circuit, which reduces the amount of circuits and cabling that needed to be installed."

Thanks to their powerful and reliable shop lights, Ireland added, crew members have so far been able to complete the construction of underground raceways, overhead conduit and conduit racks, conduits embedded in the concrete slabs, and buildouts of electrical closets.

"We wanted an LED solution and these lights work well, ship quickly, and were very cost-effective," said Lemelin, whose role in the project has included design support, quote and price negotiation, staging and storage of material, and delivery to the project site as required.

### "PROJECT OF A LIFETIME"

It's this sort of expertise that the Motor City Electric team appreciates.

As a representative of the firm that will be supplying all of the lighting on the project, both temporary and permanent, Lemelin noted that "I'm there for anything they need, from quoting material and providing project management support to resolving any product or project issues."

"Mike [Lemelin] has been involved in the project from the beginning," Ireland explained. "During the estimating phase, he offered up lighting packages and provided us with budgetary numbers on miscellaneous items such as custom utility boxes, and then when we were awarded the project, he was there with innovative solutions for temporary power.

"When we went out for pricing," he continued, "Caniff was the successful supplier of back-of-house and front-of-house fixtures, utility boxes, and cable tray needed for the project. Given Caniff's attention to detail, delivery, and storage solutions and our many years of working together, Motor City Electric feels grateful to have it as part of our team and are confident of its ability to perform."

Speaking of the new facility that will soon join nearby Ford Field (home of the Detroit Lions) and Comerica Park (home of the Detroit Tigers), Lemelin said, "This project is fantastic and the investment that's being made in the new arena and adjacent commercial and residential complexes will do wonders for the area economically. In the grand scheme of jobs, this is the project of a lifetime, and to say that I and my colleagues at Caniff Electric had a small part in how it was built truly fills us with a sense of pride." ■

**Bloom** is a 25-year veteran of the lighting and electrical products industry. Reach her at [susan.bloom.chester@gmail.com](mailto:susan.bloom.chester@gmail.com).



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