



Company markets battery-based backup power system



Bigge Doruk, president of Gaia Power Technologies, with the PowerTower, a battery-based backup power system.

Photo courtesy of GAIA POWER TECHNOLOGIES

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Gaia Power Technologies is looking to capitalize on an emerging market for power alternatives, fueled by business owners and individuals angered by recent power outages that kept some in the dark for days.

The company is marketing the PowerTower, "a battery-based backup power system that's emission-free and quiet," said Bigge Doruk, founder, chief executive officer and president of the New York-based Gaia Power Technologies.

The system ranges in power from 5.5 to 11 kilowatts and runs on batteries with a 10-year life span. The PowerTower, which is always on and automatically recharges, ranges in price from \$10,000 to \$15,000 depending on the number of kilowatts in the unit, Doruk said. The units are manufactured in Gaia's facility in Peekskill, N.Y.

Unlike generators, the PowerTower can tailor the amount of electricity released.

"Generators are on and an off thing. Our system allows for more flexibility and it only gives off power for what you're using," she said. "For example, if you have only five lights on, (it) will give you enough energy for those five lights. Typically, our systems can provide one to two days of backup. Also, you can add more battery power if you want to be able to backup more things."

The PowerTower can be used both commercially and residentially, Doruk said. "We have a modular system, so we can easily customize (it) for commercial or residential use. It's the size of a four-drawer filing cabinet, about 4-feet tall and 18-inches deep."

The unit, which needs to be installed by an electrician, fits with other appliances in a house or business setting, she said. "It's efficient, its emission-free and it's kind of you set it and forget it. You don't have the maintenance and it's no different from many appliances in your home (or business). It's always on, so you don't have to worry about your generator going off. The

PowerTower is also a big-surge protector, so we can protect sensitive equipment from power surges."

The PowerTower also can be used for demand reduction, said Ray Hull, a spokesman for the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency, which has provided Gaia contracts to help develop the PowerTower.

"It's not just for backup. Your utility meter will measure the highest peak of (electrical) demand over the month," Hull said. "It's that demand that calculates your electrical bill."

The PowerTower thinks and sees your peak and records it. It provides supplemental power to help level the peak demand charges.

"In Westchester, where you've got pretty steep rates, those savings can help pay for (the) cost of (the) machine, which is something a generator can't do. It saves money every day. Companies can see where this thing will help shave off these enormous peak-demand charges. It's a promising technology."