

INFRARED TUBE HEATERS FROM SPACE-RAY PROVIDE COMFORT FOR WASHINGTON STATE TOYOTA DEALERSHIP IN NEW FACILITY

12.15.2003

EAST WENATCHEE, Washington -- When Town Toyota decided to expand and relocate their dealership from Wenatchee to East Wenatchee, the architect for the design/build project strongly recommended infrared gas heaters over an electricity-based heating system for the new 11,560 sq. ft facility.

Established in 1987, the Wenatchee area's only Toyota dealership needed a larger facility to keep up with customer service and sales demands. Terry Johnson of PKJB Architectural Group, contacted Tom Rissman of Space-Ray Northwest, Space-Ray's representative for Washington and Northern Idaho. Heating requirements for the metal roof service area were determined using Space-Ray's exclusive CompuHeat™ heat loss analysis system. The HVAC contractor was Dick's Heating and the general contractor Hale and Long, both of East Wenatchee.



The service area consists of a six-bay 2,775 sq. ft area and a six-bay 8,790 sq. ft area and detail shop, which are divided by the customer service drive. The 8,790 sq. ft area has a sloped ceiling, 20 ft high in the center versus a 12 ft high ceiling in the other service area. The facility sits on a concrete slab.

The area also has three metal roll-up doors with windows, two of which are located at either side of the service drive and a third near the detail shop.

"Infrared heaters are widely used in auto dealership applications throughout the North America," said Bob Genisol, VP of Sales and Marketing for Space-Ray. "In the past, we focused on the repair areas of auto dealerships. With the introduction of newer model heaters, we can now heat all parts of the dealership with infrared heat including the write-up, detailing, body shop, wash bays, parts storage and in some cases the showroom areas."

Based on the COMPUHEAT™ analysis, five Space-Ray LTU130 U-Tube unitized low intensity infrared gas heaters were specified, each with 130,000 BTU/Hr heating capacity.

One Space-Ray LTU130 heater was located on both ends of the service drive, one at the center of the 6-bay service area and two at either end of the 8,790 sq. ft service area. The heaters were installed in late 2001.

Rissman noted that Town Toyota was quick to experience the benefits of radiant heat technology in their first heating season.

"Radiant heat works from the bottom up, warming people, floors and tools first which results in a comfortable work environment, even during the cold winter months." Rissman said. "An effective heating system is critical for employee well-being during the September to April heating season."

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According to Jeff McElroy, service manager for Town Toyota, with the Space-Ray heaters, the heat is consistent throughout the service area. "The Space-Ray heaters are very efficient and create a comfortable shop atmosphere for our employees as well as customers in the reception area," noted McElroy. "With these heaters, our employees remain consistently warm and comfortable throughout the work day. This is possible despite the consistent opening and closing of the three service doors."

Added a detail specialist for Town Toyota: " I came from a cold shop and it was a pleasant change to work in a shop that maintained a uniform level of heat. I noticed that the cars warm up and dry off very quickly which really makes it nice to work on them."

Space-Ray LTU130 U-Tube low intensity heaters incorporate features not found on most competitive units. These include a self-contained draft inducer which pull the products of combustion through the combustion chamber for increased radiant efficiency and safety, a factory-assembled tube and reflector body with quick three-bolt control box assembly for easier on-site installation, unique monitoring lights for on-line diagnosis and simple, easy maintenance and a calorized steel emitter tube for higher radiant efficiency.

For more information on Space-Ray infrared gas heaters, contact Space-Ray – Charlotte, NC.

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