

Recharging Electronic Devices at One of the Nation's Busiest Airports

Travelers plugging in to stay connected

From weekly business travelers to family vacationers, the increasing need to stay connected leaves many airline passengers looking for a place to recharge tablets, smart and mobile phones, gaming devices, e-readers, digital cameras and a host of other electronic devices. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport in Arizona is no exception. With more than 100,000 passengers arriving and departing each day, totaling more than 40 million passengers in 2012 alone, the airport is one of the top 10 busiest in the United States. Based on feedback from these "connected passengers" and airport industry trends, the airport recognized the need to provide travelers with on-the-go charging capabilities and sought to install charging stations in the airport's busiest locations throughout the terminals.

The airport's initial solution was to install charging kiosk stations, allowing travelers to plug in electronic devices while waiting to depart the airport. These charging stations, while offering the necessary charging capabilities, had been installed in outlet strips that required the entire area containing the devices to be disassembled to service just one receptacle.

With thousands of passengers plugging in their electronic devices at the airport each day, the outlet strip solution presented an issue when service was needed. The entire disassembled charging kiosk

remained out of service and unusable to travelers during the maintenance period. As the charging kiosks proved to be the most popular seating areas in the airport, fewer charging stations were available in the in-demand areas.

In speaking with airport representatives, Leviton sales representative, Joseph Kosikowski, shared a solution for easily serviceable receptacles capable of charging multiple devices simultaneously. Kosikowski recommended the Leviton USB Charger/Tamper-Resistant Receptacle. This device has the ability to charge two USB powered electronic devices through two USB Ports, while also providing a Tamper-Resistant Receptacle free for other uses such as laptop charging. The Leviton USB Charger also allows

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technicians to service the individual device from the front of the receptacle, so maintenance of the devices is a much simpler process with minimal inconvenience to travelers.

"Rather than take apart all of the surrounding equipment, airport maintenance and facility personnel can easily access and maintain the Leviton USB Chargers should maintenance be needed in the years after installation," said Kosikowski. "And, the Leviton





devices incorporate a smart chip which recognizes and optimizes the charging power of the device plugged in, allowing users to charge smart phones and tablets or other devices simultaneously, saving time.”

Phoenix Sky Harbor began installing the Leviton USB Chargers in “Get Plugged In” stations, utilizing space formerly designated for phone booth kiosks. The installation began in mid-2012, with ongoing installations of additional USB receptacles totaling nearly 80. Positive passenger response to the Leviton USB Chargers has been noted through customer comment cards and social media activity.

USB Charger Receptacles are ideal for public spaces such as airports, hotels and college campuses as well as residential use. With two vertical USB Ports, Leviton USB Chargers

provide additional space for maneuvering charging cords and reduce stress on the cords while charging. Plus, Leviton USB Chargers incorporate a smart chip which recognizes and optimizes the charging power of the device plugged in. They are engineered to fit in a standard wallbox, use a standard wallplate and can be multi-ganged with any standard wiring device.

“The features and benefits of the product lend well to not only to airports and commercial spaces, but in residential installations as well,” said Kosikowski. “The Leviton USB receptacle is a great addition to apartment complexes, dormitories or any space where people use their electronic devices.”

