Biogen Idec is a global leader in the discovery, development, manufacturing and commercialization of innovative therapies. In 2003, the pharmaceutical company needed to do something to ensure the critical supply of steam and electricity to its Kendall Square campus, both of which came from outside sources. The loss of electricity for an hour means as much as 24 to 36 days of product loss due to batch production processes. In addition, Biogen’s steam supply was sometimes unreliable.

After careful consideration, a 5.7 MWe Taurus™ 60 was chosen as the primary power generation equipment. Coupled with a waste heat recovery boiler, the gas turbine generator set would provide the campus with both the power and steam it needed. It was estimated that savings on Biogen Idec’s utility bill would be up to $4 million per year. In addition, they calculated that 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions would be avoided through the more efficient use of fuel in the cogeneration system. The cogeneration system provides steam for both heating and cooling to the campus. The utility is now used for backup power, and Biogen has a cogeneration system with much higher reliability than using the utility alone.