SSL Postings
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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A Groundbreaking Meeting on Connected Lighting Systems

Next month in Portland, OR, DOE's tenth annual Technology Development Workshop will be preceded by a unique and critically important opportunity for the lighting industry, and for many others as well. DOE's inaugural Connected Lighting Systems Meeting, which takes place on November 16 (the day before the workshop), will bring together lighting technologists and their counterparts from the semiconductor and IT industries to tackle a question that's been generating a great deal of buzz lately: how can we best leverage the coming collision between lighting systems and the Internet of Things (IoT)?

We know that SSL technology, by its very nature, facilitates the integration of intelligence, network interfaces, and sensors into lighting devices, which can result not only in reduced energy consumption, but also in improved lighting performance. But integrating this with other building systems, as well as with the much larger IoT, requires a concerted effort that takes into account the knowledge bases and lessons learned from multiple technologies and industries.

The Connected Lighting Systems Meeting represents the first DOE effort focused on just that. The direct result of feedback we received from key lighting industry stakeholders at a roundtable held in March, it leverages DOE's longstanding role as a trusted convener and facilitator, and aims at creating a broad-based framework for discussion and collaboration. Collaboration is essential here, because without it there's potential for the degree of confusion and "anything goes" atmosphere that reigned in early days of SSL, which were likened to the Wild West.

The meeting will draw on those lessons learned, as well as on the collective experiences of the IT and semiconductor industries. The keynote address will be given by Tom Herbst, CTO of IoT Solutions for Cisco Systems, who'll bring an IT perspective leavened by IoT savvy. Gabe Arnold of the DesignLights Consortium™ will explore why yesterday's lighting control technology has met with limited success and lay the groundwork for the ensuing discussions on how tomorrow's connected lighting systems might overcome these issues.

Expert panels will lead attendees into deep-dive discussions in several key areas. Brent Protzman of Lutron, Jefferay Lawton of Microchip, and Michael Poplawski of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will share perspectives on why — and how — lighting systems should report their own energy consumption. Another panel will focus on the complex issue of interoperability among system components, drawing on perspectives from Philip DesAutels (from the Linux Foundation, representing the AllSeen Alliance), Roy Harvey (from OSRAM Sylvania, representing the ZigBee Alliance), Remy Marcotorchino (from Sierra Wireless, representing oneM2M), and David McCall (from Intel, representing the Open Interconnect Consortium).

A third panel — this one featuring Dagnachew Birru from Philips Lighting, Tom Griffiths from AMS-TAOS, and Kishore Manghnani from Orama — will discuss several different approaches to reducing the complexity of lighting system configuration. And a final panel will look at recent examples of installed systems that are demonstrating improved lighting energy performance or other benefits that could result in the creation of new business models and revenue streams.

The rich mix of perspectives gathered at this meeting will facilitate technical discussions on key issues and potential paths forward, and lay the groundwork for government-industry collaboration with respect to connected lighting systems. We hope you'll join us there. To register, or for more information, visit the DOE SSL website.

As always, if you have questions or comments, you can reach us at postings@akoyaonline.com.