

# ASSIST Infrastructure Change

## Solid-state lighting promises to transform the way we light the world.

That promise is found in solid-state lighting's ability to save energy, reduce maintenance, and change our entire lighting infrastructure. The light-emitting diode (LED), the primary solid-state lighting technology, has been tapped by scientists, government agencies, and others as the next generation light source for general illumination in homes and offices.

Yet, in order for solid-state lighting to be a success, it cannot simply become a replacement for traditional technologies in the traditional manner, i.e., screwing a glass-and-brass bulb into a socket. Lighting must be thought of in new ways—ways that take advantage of the LED's design and benefits.

### Infrastructure Change to Reap the Solid-State Lighting Dream

What if building architecture and lighting could be seamlessly integrated to create illumination that is dynamic, personal, and flexible? What would it look like? Over the past 100 years, traditional lighting has acted as an add-on to spaces. Lighting fixtures are hung from ceilings, sit on floors, and rest on tables. The present infrastructure does not allow us to change lighting easily, leading often to poor-quality lighting in our spaces. Electricians must be called, holes cut, walls patched and repainted. The need for cords and cables tethers our use of portable lighting, as well as common electronic devices, to the places where electrical sockets can be found.

Solid-state lighting, however, offers new ways to think about how we light our spaces. This rapidly evolving technology can be embedded into any type of architecture due to its small size, ruggedness, and long life. Its numerous color options and acceptance of dynamic control can create a personal lighting experience to meet any task or ambiance. Its energy-saving qualities mean a healthier environment for the future.

From homes to offices, a new infrastructure design will reap the benefits of solid-state lighting: flexibility, energy savings, ease of integration, and dynamic control. Most of all, a new infrastructure incorporating solid-state lighting will mean a future of personal, quality illumination that serves our utmost need for light.



Lighting  
Research Center

## Demonstrating the Concept

The Alliance for Solid-State Illumination Systems and Technologies (ASSIST) and the Lighting Research Center (LRC) designed and built a full-scale vignette of an executive office to showcase the concept for adaptable lighting and to demonstrate the value in easily changing lighting design. The ceiling and walls consist of thin LED-lighted panels that snap in and out of a modular electrical grid and provide different lighting distributions, including general, task, accent and decorative. The panels can be rearranged simply and rapidly to cater to changing space layouts or personal preference. For example, accent lighting built into a panel can move as easily as the artwork it highlights. The LED panels are controlled by a touch-screen monitor. The end result is flexibility and quality lighting. The concept also can integrate electronics such as televisions, monitors, wireless speakers, and other communications and media equipment.



## Plan of Action

ASSIST and the LRC are seeking avenues to advance the concept, including collaboration with manufacturers to build a commercial product with a standard, open architecture, and a demonstration project in a high-profile concept building where the public can experience the benefits. The group is seeking sponsors and stakeholders who can help in realizing the program goal.

## About ASSIST

ASSIST was established in 2002 to advance the effective use of energy-efficient solid-state lighting and speed its market acceptance. As a collaboration between researchers, manufacturers, and government, ASSIST works to identify and reduce the major technical hurdles facing solid-state lighting. On behalf of ASSIST, the LRC conducts research, demonstration, and educational activities. Beyond technical research, ASSIST fosters discussions between traditional luminaire and LED manufacturers. Sponsors include Acuity Brands Lighting, Bridgelux, China Solid State Lighting Alliance, Cree, Everlight Electronics, FAA, GE Lumination, ITRI – Industrial Technology Research Institute, The Lighting Association (UK), Lighting Science Group, Lite-On, NeoPac Lighting, NYSERDA, OSRAM SYLVANIA/OSRAM Opto Semiconductors, Permlight, Philips Color Kinetics, Seoul Semiconductor, Sharp Laboratories of America, U.S. EPA, and WAC Lighting.

## About the Lighting Research Center

Rensselaer's Lighting Research Center is the world's leading university-based research and educational institution devoted to lighting. Based in Troy, New York, the LRC's staff of more than 30 lighting experts is working to advance the effective use of lighting to create a legacy of positive change for society and the environment. Since 1988, the LRC has collaborated with industry, government, academia, and public advocacy groups to positively impact lighting manufacturing, design, specification, installation, and use through research, demonstration, education, and market transformation.

## For More Information

<http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/programs/solidstate/assist>  
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