Turning the Light on Efficiency

Universal Lighting Technologies Retrofits Their New Corporate Panasonic Lighting Americas Office with High Efficiency Lighting Technology

After experiencing significant company growth over the past few years, Universal Lighting Technologies, Inc. made the decision to move to a new location. But before that physical change in address could be completed, the company wanted to ensure its new home reflected the efficiency of Universal’s products.

As a member of the Panasonic Lighting Americas group and a leading manufacturer of innovative lighting products, Universal had all the tools and expertise not only to make that possible, but to increase overall lighting efficiency of its new space.

“We started with a thorough assessment of the existing lighting and decided to upgrade technology across the board—including both new fixtures and retrofits of some of the existing lighting,” said Director of Systems Product Management Greg Bennorth. “Then we got to work, adding high efficiency products throughout the space accompanied by scheduling, controls and sensors.”

LED technologies in the new facility include Panasonic downlight fixtures in the lobby and boardroom, all equipped with EVERLINE LED drivers and Chip on Board LED modules. The boardroom also includes uniquely designed LED pendant edge-lit decorative fixtures with EVERLINE components. Universal used LED chain lighting in the lobby to illuminate the Panasonic Lighting Americas entrance sign. Existing recessed 2x4 troffer fixtures throughout the space were upgraded with LED systems that incorporate EVERLINE linear LED modules and drivers for even more energy savings.

Those updates worked. Universal was able to lower lighting density to .45W per square foot, resulting in only 14,790 kWh per year of lighting—which is a savings of more than 23,000 kWh, or more than a 60 percent cut in total lighting expense.

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For More Information:

Universal Lighting Technologies
Universal Lighting Technologies
51 Century Blvd., Suite 230
Nashville, TN 37214
1-800-BALLAST
unvlt.com
Universal also incorporated leading fluorescent technologies in its new headquarters, including DEMANDflex ballasts in the six-lamp T8 open office area fluorescent lamp fixtures as well as the VariPro 0–10V analog dimming ballasts in the main entry.

“Lighting throughout our new space is controlled with a Dialog Control System utilizing wall control relays from our sister Panasonic company, Douglas Lighting Controls, for local zone control, manual overrides, and facility scheduling,” explained Bennorth. “All of the conference rooms and executive offices use Dialog 0–10V dimming and occupancy sensors in combination with the LED lighting.”

The Dialog system allows custom scenes chosen by the occupant to be programmed and recalled by the controls. The lighting system is connected to the local network for programming, scheduling, and load shedding capabilities,” said Bennorth. “We grouped the open areas into sections for ceiling mount occupancy sensor control to ensure that the lights are powered off when the areas are not in use and are never left on when nobody is there.”

The updated space has been featured as a Google maps virtual tour, allowing Universal to further showcase the unique lighting used in the new headquarters. Users can now walk through the entire office online for an up-close look at the innovative and energy-efficient lighting incorporated throughout the Panasonic Lighting Americas office. The virtual tour on Google can be accessed online here: http://tinyurl.com/65j4gw.

“Our DCL technology is used in both the fluorescent and LED fixtures in our open areas, providing energy management, scheduling, and load shedding capabilities,”

For more information about Universal Lighting Technologies, please visit unvlt.com.