SSL Postings
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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A Look Ahead at 2015

DOE's Solid-State Lighting Program has much in store for 2015. First up is our 12th annual SSL R&D Workshop, which will be held January 27-29 in San Francisco. It's an event not to be missed, featuring a hotshot lineup of 60 expert speakers, all focused on the question "what's next for SSL?" The opening remarks will be delivered by Shuji Nakamura of the University of California Santa Barbara, winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work in inventing the efficient blue LED.

These workshops are *the* forum for the SSL R&D community to come together to share the latest advances and updates and discuss what's needed to drive the technology to achieve its full potential. Far from being stuffy, one-way affairs of the "you-talk-and-we-listen" lecture-hall variety, they're true "meetings of the minds," where everyone – and I mean *everyone* – is encouraged to weigh in and participate. In San Francisco there'll be no-holds-barred Q&A sessions following the plenary talks and panel discussions, plus smaller breakout and track sessions tailored to key issues for LEDs and OLEDs, and a networking reception where you can engage the experts in one-on-one discussion. An ideal setting for new ideas and approaches to be hatched, and partnerships to be forged.

The input we get from these workshops helps us update the DOE SSL R&D Multi-Year Program Plan, which is widely consulted by industry both here and abroad and also guides our SSL funding solicitations. But it does way more than that, because it helps us tailor our program to the evolving needs of our many stakeholders. For example, it was feedback from previous workshops that led DOE to expand its OLED efforts – which, as a result, now go beyond just funding R&D projects, to include hosting special OLED stakeholder meetings and offering an OLED testing opportunity.

Similarly, because of feedback we've received at previous workshops, DOE's SSL Program plans to expand its focus on advanced controls in 2015, to include additional support for research, specifications, and education, as well as technical support for standards and industry consortiums such as TALQ and the Connected Lighting Alliance. Although the need for this initiative was made clear at previous workshops, the initiative itself

will be further refined based on input we get at the San Francisco gathering.

This year will also bring big changes to the Next Generation Luminaires™ (NGL) Solid-State Lighting Design Competition. The Indoor and Outdoor NGL competitions will remain separate, but unlike in previous years, they'll run concurrently, with the Outdoor and Indoor winners announced together in May at LIGHTFAIR International. To maximize value to specifiers and manufacturers, the number of NGL categories will be limited and a more in-depth approach taken. The focus will be on a few areas of particular concern to specifiers, with only certain applications considered within each of those areas. As always, overall specifiability will be the key consideration, with the bar set high on a wide range of performance parameters.

And you can also expect more SSL resources from DOE in 2015. For example, our CALiPER program has several in-depth reports coming out soon, on LED PAR38s and LED retail lamps; and GATEWAY will release a number of key demo reports over the course of the year. Plus we'll publish a new SSL adoption report, which will analyze nine different lighting markets to update a similar report that came out in 2013.

These are just some of the highlights of what's in store for 2015, which is shaping up to be a big year for the DOE SSL Program. So stay tuned to these *Postings* to learn more as our plans unfold.

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