April 10, 2015

Save These Dates

The dates are set for the next two annual DOE SSL workshops, so mark your calendars!

November 17–18, 2015: DOE SSL Technology Development Workshop
February 2–4, 2016: DOE SSL R&D Workshop

Why attend these workshops? Quite simply, because there's no better way to stay abreast of the fast-moving SSL market and keep up with its cutting edge. DOE's annual workshops provide a forum for solid-state lighting stakeholders of all stripes to share the very latest advances and discuss how best to drive the technology to fulfill its potential. The information covered ranges from updates on DOE-funded R&D projects to basic science hurdles to the technical challenges encountered in real-world SSL applications.

These workshops are a far cry from stuffy, one-way, lecture-hall events, where presenters do all the talking while the audience just listens. Rather, they're open, interactive, and fully participatory, with everyone encouraged to weigh in. Attendees provide extensive input and guidance to the DOE SSL program via plenary session Q&A periods, technology-specific breakout sessions, and informal networking opportunities, where attendees have a chance to chat personally with some of the industry's biggest names. The varied perspectives from such a diverse group help shed light on SSL's toughest issues and R&D needs.

Our Technology Development Workshops focus on open dialogue about SSL product performance and trends specifically related to systems and applications,

as well as the challenges of specifying today's products. The highlights of last year's event, held in Detroit, are available online, along with a short video that captures the essence of what these meetings are all about. Our SSL R&D Workshops provide an opportunity to share updates on SSL technology advances and discuss science and technology advances needed to achieve DOE efficacy and performance goals. The highlights of this year's R&D Workshop, held in San Francisco in January, were recently posted online.

The input from both the Technology Development and R&D Workshops informs DOE's R&D program and helps us update our R&D Plan, which is widely consulted by industry both here and abroad and also guides our SSL funding solicitations. However, the workshop input does a lot more than that, because it helps us tailor our solid-state lighting program to the evolving needs of the 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. Most recently, a roundtable meeting on the topic of advanced connected lighting systems enabled by SSL will inform future planning in this important and rapidly evolving area.

Despite all the advances, solid-state lighting technology is in its early years. Continued innovation and breakthroughs in materials, processes, product designs, control systems, and manufacturing are still needed to realize the technology's full potential. DOE's role is to work closely with a wide range of stakeholders to realize this full potential, rather than settling for "good enough." Our annual SSL workshops are a major component of this work, and we invite you to come join us in November and February and become part of the process.

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