

April 26, 2016

## Next Generation Luminaires™ Winners Announced

The winners in the Indoor and Outdoor categories of the eighth annual [Next Generation Luminaires](#) Design Competition (NGL) were announced today at LIGHTFAIR® International in San Diego. Sponsored by DOE, the Illuminating Engineering Society, and the International Association of Lighting Designers, NGL promotes excellence in the design of energy-efficient LED luminaires for commercial lighting applications. Twenty-five winners were announced at LIGHTFAIR — in applications including pendants, wall washers, downlights, cove, recessed accent, roadway, pedestrian, parking garage, and bollards. Photos, descriptions, and details are posted [online](#).



The 2016 Indoor and Outdoor Competitions together recognized a total of 25 luminaires, highlighting five of those as Outstanding. In the Indoor Competition, 16 luminaires were recognized, with three of these singled out as Outstanding. In the Outdoor Competition, nine luminaires were recognized, with two of these singled out as Outstanding. A number of improvements were observed in the 2016 NGL entries. For example, efficacy for all submitted products was consistently higher than in previous years — although efficacies of recognized indoor products were roughly the same as in 2015. About four-fifths of all submitted products had lumen maintenance greater than 85% ( $L_{85}$ ) at 50,000 hours. And for the first time, a significant number (31%) of awarded indoor products had CRI >90.

The idea behind NGL is to make it easier to find the best specification-grade LED lighting products. This means recognized products have to measure up on many fronts. The 2016 NGL entries were evaluated by a panel of 21 judges (11 for indoor, 10 for outdoor) drawn from the architectural and outdoor lighting communities. The entries were scored on color, illuminance, glare control, light distribution, serviceability, value, dimming control, and appearance — with lumen maintenance and luminous efficacy ratings based on LM-79, LM-80, and TM-21 submitted to DOE's [LED Lighting Facts](#)® program by the manufacturers. Submissions making it to the judging phase presented market-ready samples and complete documentation — including luminaire and component specification sheets, LM-79 test reports, lumen maintenance projections, warranty statements, and marketing materials. These documents help make sure actual performance matches what's claimed.

NGL continues to focus on key applications where product quality and availability clearly lag market opportunity. This permits more in-depth and rigorous evaluation,



rather than spreading effort over many well-established luminaire categories. For indoor products, the 2016 target areas included luminaires with high lumen output capabilities, as well as several aspects of controllability: simple digital dimming (required of all entrants); dim-to-warm; tunable-white; and connected systems of luminaires, sensors, and controls. For outdoor products, the target areas included pedestrian-scale luminaires; garage luminaires; and typical roadway, parking lot, and wall-pack categories. Integrated sensors were evaluated for the garage luminaires, while simple dimming control was required for most other categories.

Tunable-white and dim-to-warm were the most successful indoor categories, with five of the nine entries awarded, including two products rated Outstanding. Pedestrian-scale, bollard, and parking-garage luminaires were the most successful outdoor categories, together with one Outstanding roadway luminaire.

The 2016 Outdoor Competition included sports lighting for the first time. While significant advances have been made in LED sports-lighting equipment for large arena and stadium applications, there remains a need for high-quality, affordable lighting to meet the demands of smaller exterior installations such as high-school and recreation fields, where lower mounting heights call for improved glare management, and light scatter beyond property boundaries can be an issue. The two NGL sports luminaires evaluated were considered Notable but were not recognized as fully appropriate for recreational applications.

Connected lighting systems — which integrate luminaires, sensors, and software to monitor and control operation — received special emphasis in the 2016 Indoor Competition, another first for NGL. Two basic types of connected lighting systems were submitted: those with an external controller and networked luminaires, and those with self-contained network controls integrated into the luminaires. The judges did not find any single connected-lighting entry to be generally superior, but rather noted that each has benefits and limitations in different applications.

The Next Generation Luminaires competition paves the way for substantial energy savings by encouraging and recognizing exceptional quality in LEDs for general illumination. For more information on NGL or to find out more about this year's winners, please visit [www.nglcdc.org](http://www.nglcdc.org).

Best regards,  
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As always, if you have questions or comments, you can reach us at [postings@akoyaonline.com](mailto:postings@akoyaonline.com).