

# *Postings: from the desk of Jim Brodrick*

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It's been a while since I've written a *Posting* about the [Lighting Facts®\\_program](#)—last summer, to be exact. There have been some important developments since then, which makes the time ripe for another update. For those of you who may not know, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launched Lighting Facts in December 2008 to help buyers, specifiers, and lighting designers sift through the profusion of LED lighting products coming onto the market. Even though the performance of these products on the whole has shown a steady upward trend, they still vary widely in terms of quality and the accuracy of the claims made by their manufacturers.

Central to the Lighting Facts program is the Lighting Facts label, which presents independently verified LM-79 performance data in a simple summary that facilitates accurate comparison between products. The idea is for manufacturers to pledge to obtain the Lighting Facts label for their SSL general-illumination products, and for retailers, distributors, lighting professionals, utilities, and energy efficiency organizations to pledge to look for and use products that bear the label.

I'm both delighted and encouraged to report that the idea has caught on and in a big way. To date, more than 2,200 products from over 200 manufacturers have been registered—everything from portable desk lamps, to recessed downlights, to roadway fixtures, to replacement lamps. Equally important is the fact that more than 170 retailers and distributors have already signed on as Lighting Facts partners, along with 200 utilities, energy efficiency organizations, and lighting professionals.

And the numbers are growing at a rapid pace—for example, more than 200 products were registered with Lighting Facts in January alone. Why? Because the program's value as a "go to" resource for buyers and specifiers and a "must have" for manufacturers increases as more of them climb on board, which has created a groundswell of momentum that helps the entire industry.

Lighting Facts is far more than just a label program. All registered products are listed on the products page of the Lighting Facts website, along with their Lighting Facts label data. This online list is searchable by product name, manufacturer, and application, and the information it provides is not limited to what's on the Lighting Facts label, but provides a complete product profile. There are additional metrics from the LM-79 test reports, including power factor, zonal lumens, beam angle, and center beam candle power, which are optional for manufacturers to enter for their products. And there are also special qualifications or recognition a product has received—such as being evaluated in a DOE GATEWAY demonstration project, being ENERGY STAR-qualified, or winning a design competition such as Next Generation Luminaires™.

The Lighting Facts products page was upgraded just last week, to make it even more user-friendly than before. It now features a real-time breakdown of the various product types on the growing list of registered products. The search function has been enhanced to generate any slice of that list that a user needs to see, with a feature to download it. And a new tool, the Commercial Product Performance Scale, has been added to complement the Residential Product Performance Scale that's been up and running for a while. These two scales facilitate benchmark comparisons between LED lighting products and their traditional counterparts by comparing performance values for the five parameters listed on the Lighting Facts label to performance values for those same parameters in traditional residential and commercial lighting technologies. For example, you could compare the performance of a particular LED

cove light with the performance of a fluorescent product intended for the same application.

In another key development, Lighting Facts has just begun an ongoing verification program to ensure that registered products continue to perform as claimed. Over the course of each year, a sample of approved products—aiming for 10% of the entire list—will be tested by independent labs, using samples anonymously purchased from commercial sources. Products that fail to meet tolerances will be delisted from the approved Lighting Facts products list, and will only be relisted if the manufacturers revise their Lighting Facts labels and update all packaging material accordingly. Not only will this help buyers, but it will also help manufacturers, because products that pass the verification testing will be specially designated on the Lighting Facts website.

The success of the Lighting Facts program has made it the largest database of its kind, which lets us use that data to monitor the state of the SSL market in the form of reports we're calling "Product Snapshots." The first of these snapshots, comparing LED replacement lamps to the new performance levels mandated by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 as well as to traditional lighting technology, was introduced last July, based on the first 795 products registered with Lighting Facts. An updated version, based on more than 2,000 products, is in the works and should be available next month.

Solid-state lighting has more energy-saving potential than any other lighting technology, and Lighting Facts is helping to make that potential a reality by driving improved product performance and consumer acceptance. But it's important to realize that the program is a partner-driven effort that would have little impact without the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. So my wholehearted thanks and congratulations go out to the entire lighting community for making Lighting Facts such a resounding success.

As always, if you have questions or comments, you can reach me at [postings@lightingfacts.com](mailto:postings@lightingfacts.com).

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