

SSL Postings

The three solid-state lighting [workshops](#) that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) holds on an annual basis collectively form one of the cornerstones of our SSL program and have become major industry events that attract hundreds of attendees from across the continent – even overseas. As many of you know, our R&D Workshop focuses on accelerating SSL technology advances through R&D, our Manufacturing R&D Workshop aims at improving the quality and lowering the cost of SSL products and components, and our Market Introduction Workshop is concerned with speeding SSL's market adoption.

Next year's SSL workshops are still in the planning stages, but we've changed when one of them will be held. As usual, the R&D Workshop will take place in February and the Market Introduction Workshop in July. But instead of being held in April, as in the past, the Manufacturing R&D Workshop will shift to June, with this change expected to be permanent rather than just for next year. The exact dates and locations for these 2012 workshops will be finalized later, but we wanted to give you a heads-up now about this one change so that you can plan accordingly.

Why does DOE hold these solid-state lighting workshops? One reason is to provide an unbiased, vendor-neutral forum where industry folks of all types can come together to learn, share, interact, and build partnerships – all with an eye toward helping to move the technology forward. Few, if any, other venues bring together such a wide range of lighting leaders – representing government, industry, energy efficiency organizations, utilities,

municipalities, designers, specifiers, retailers, distributors, and others. The broad mix of perspectives that are represented at these workshops provides fertile ground for the development of new ideas, while helping to prevent the kind of blinkered thinking that can hinder the development of any technology. And the opportunities for networking act as a leavening for the creation of cross-cutting partnerships and collaborations that might not otherwise come about.

Another reason for DOE's SSL workshops is education. Solid-state lighting is developing at so rapid a pace that even things that were learned just six months ago may well be already out-of-date. With their focus on the cutting edge, the workshops provide an effective way to stay abreast. They're also instrumental in helping DOE make sure that its program plans keep pace. The workshops are not of the "we talk, you listen" variety, but are truly participatory, interactive, inclusive affairs, in which anyone who wants to is free to weigh in on any issue being discussed – and everyone is encouraged to do so. Attendee feedback is systematically and vigorously solicited by DOE to help update its [Multi-Year Program Plan](#) and [Manufacturing Roadmap](#), which guide our SSL funding solicitations and are also used extensively by industry.

As many have noted, the keys to solid-state lighting reaching its potential are collaboration and education. But these, in turn, require a catalyst and a vehicle. DOE created its SSL workshops to fill both of those roles.

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