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Contact: Brooke MacDonald
KEH Communications
410-975-9638
brooke@kehcomm.com

Ann Feigl-Johnston
Lutron Electronics Co.
610.282.7505
afjohnston@lutron.com

Schools Save Money on Gymnasium Lighting with ‘Athlite™’

Lutron® Electronics Co. offers better and more efficient lighting and control solution for the multiple uses of gymnasiums in schools

Coopersburg, Pa. (May 28, 2009) – Gone are the days of gymnasium lighting “hot spots” and shadows, long warm up times, and lighting that needs to stay on all day, with Athlite, Lutron’s high-performance, energy-efficient lighting solution for school gymnasiums. With Athlite, individuals responsible for designing and remodeling gymnasium spaces have a targeted way to create just the right lighting for the myriad activities taking place in school gymnasiums.

A large number of gymnasiums have outdated Metal Halide (MH) lighting systems that consume energy budgets. Traditionally, MH lamps take several minutes to warm up, and, if power is interrupted even briefly, the lamps require up to 20 minutes before they will come back on. In addition MH lamps produce poor color, glare and uneven illumination. Older MH lamps have reduced output and will continuously cycle on and off.

The Athlite system combines Athlite fixtures, wall stations and, in gymnasiums with windows, daylight sensors, allowing gymnasiums to be lit with just the right lighting for any number of events, including athletic events, performances, meetings, school dances, and community events. At the same time, Athlite creates a more green school environment by reducing lighting consumption by 50% - 80% compared to equivalent MH lighting systems.

“At Lutron we lead efficient lighting innovation for education by providing the optimum lighting environment for the educational setting,” said Steve Beede, Market Development Manager for Lutron Electronics Co.

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“Gymnasiums have consistently been a drain on schools’ energy budgets with the inefficiencies of MH lighting systems. They provide inconsistent lighting in a gym with glare, hot spots and shadows, and they can only be turned on at the beginning of the day and off at the end of day, otherwise there are a lot of people standing around waiting for the lights,” he continued. “We designed the Athlite system to meet the needs of each school community by creating better lighting and energy efficiency, while giving schools the opportunity to use the gym for other types of school and community events. Schools can now dim the entire room, take advantage of the energy efficiency of day-lighting in gyms with windows, and easily open up the gym on the spur of the moment for events without having to worry about the lights.”

Athlite offers four distinct, programmable lighting levels programmable at the wall station, in addition to on and off, to accommodate all lighting needs.. For instance, during gym class lights may be on 50% - 60%, while during a sporting event lights may be on 80%-90%, and then they may dim during cleaning. While the room is unoccupied, the lights are turned off completely.

Pricing and Availability

Athlite is priced based on the size of the gymnasium and number of light fixtures to be installed. Lutron offers a free site assessment to any school in the continental U.S.

About Lutron Electronics Co.

Lutron Electronics Co., Inc. (www.lutron.com), based in Coopersburg, PA, is the world leader in the design and manufacture of lighting control products. Lutron also designs and manufactures automated window treatments for residential and commercial applications. Since 1961, Lutron has delivered industry-leading technology that saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

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