



## Comfort Vue Family

Amerlux's Comfort Vue product line is a family of linear fixtures offering industry best visual comfort while still maintaining a high performance. Precision molded louvers combine with metallized molded optics to basically eliminate glare. Each individual LED has its own optic to eliminate any color over angle issues. Louvers are offered in Piano Black, Glossy White or Polished Chrome. The family of products include pendant mounting, surface mounting, recessed and perimeter mounting options. Comfort Vue offers the best length configurability in the industry with increments of a single cell.

## Features & Benefits

- Industry best visual comfort while still maintaining a high performance.
- Precision molded louvers combine with metallized molded optics to eliminate glare.
- Piano Black, Glossy White or Polished Chrome louver finishes.
- Best length configurability in the industry.
- Fully lit corners available.

[Comfort-Vue Brochure DIGITAL.pdf](#)

## Market Observer

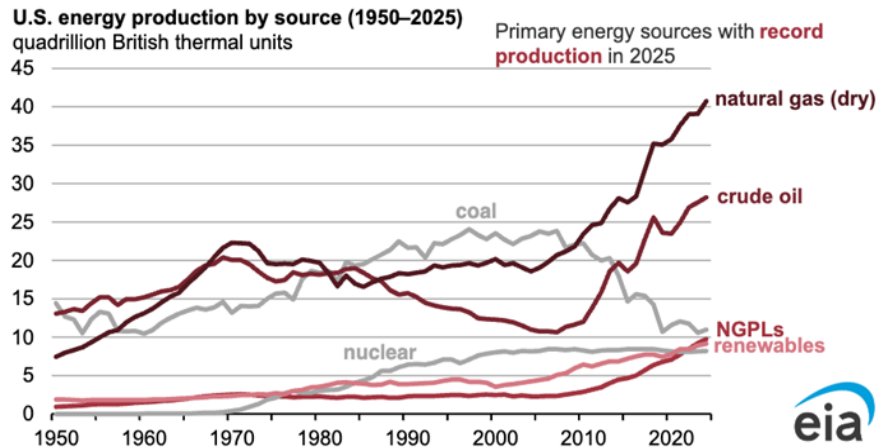
1. **LiFi Technology Update** - PureLiFi & Askey are working together to extend the capabilities of wireless power transmission that uses light generated by LED lighting systems. PureLiFi, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, a large provider of LiFi technology, announced a landmark partnership with Askey, a manufacturer of advanced network communications equipment, for the Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) market. Askey will pioneer the demonstration of a fully integrated "all-in-one" solution that combines a high-performance 5G modem and pureLiFi's proprietary through-window bridging technology in a streamlined self-installable solution. Developer are working on extending the range of LiFi systems, which is currently relatively limited. Signify is also working with LiFi through its [trulifi system](#). Several media reports said that LiFi has the capacity to be 100 faster the conventional WiFi. [LiFi Technology Update | Electrical Wholesaling](#)

2. **USGS Says Appalachian Lithium Could Support EV Battery Demand by Jacob Lorinc** - Parts of the Appalachian region of the eastern U.S. hold enough lithium to curb America's reliance on imports for centuries, according to new research by the U.S. Geological Survey, underscoring domestic resource potential as demand for critical minerals accelerates. The areas — primarily covering Maine, New Hampshire and the Carolinas, holds an estimated 2.3 million metric tons of undiscovered, economically recoverable lithium, said a USGS study published April 28. That's enough of the battery metal to replace 328 years of U.S. imports at last year's level, and enough to power 130 million electric vehicles or 1.6 million grid-scale batteries, the agency said. Global lithium supply remains concentrated, with China dominating the world's supply of processed lithium. [USGS Says Appalachian Lithium Could Support EV Battery Demand - TT](#)

3. **NAED Opens Registration for the 2026 Marketing Summit** - The race has begun for the [2026 NAED Marketing Summit](#), as registration is now open for the event, August 3-5 in Indianapolis, IN. This year's theme is "Shift, Accelerate, Outpace", which could not be more appropriate as we navigate so much change and at a higher rate of speed. The 2026 Marketing Summit is targeted at Marketers working in electrical distribution, manufacturing, and rep agencies who want to evolve their approach to content strategy, cross-functional alignment, AI, and building marketing programs that can scale. [NAED Opens Registration For The 2026 Marketing Summit – tEDmag](#)
4. **Weekly Jobless Claims Hits Lowest Level in 5 Decades** - The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits last week fell to its lowest level in more than 50 years, according to the latest report from the U.S. Department of Labor. In the week ending April 25, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 189,000, a decrease of 26,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 214,000 to 215,000. The 4-week moving average was 207,500, a decrease of 3,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 210,750 to 211,000. The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending April 18, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. [Weekly Jobless Claims Hits Lowest Level in 5 Decades – tEDmag](#)
5. **DALI Alliance to Host Third Annual DALI North America Summit in Dallas** - The DALI Alliance announces that its 3rd Annual DALI North America Summit will take place September 16 and 17 in Dallas, Texas, alongside ArchLIGHT Summit, the commercial and architectural lighting event held September 15 and 16 at Dallas Market Center. The DALI Summit brings together lighting designers, manufacturers, integrators, and technology providers to explore the latest developments in standardized lighting control and smart building integration. The event continues to grow as a key forum for advancing interoperability, data-driven lighting, and the role of lighting within connected building systems. [DALI Alliance to Host 3rd Annual DALI North America Summit in Dallas | EC&M](#)
6. **Amazon Opens Third-Party Logistics to Any Company** - Today, Amazon is announcing [Amazon Supply Chain Services](#) (ASCS), opening its full portfolio of freight, distribution, fulfillment, and parcel shipping capabilities to businesses of all types and sizes, not only Amazon sellers. With this launch, Amazon is expanding its third-party logistics capacity to support businesses in industries such as healthcare, automotive, manufacturing, and retail. Starting today, businesses can access a centralized console to discover, select, and sign up for the various ASCS solutions. [Business News Today – tEDmag](#)
7. **April 2026 ISM® Manufacturing PMI® Report** - The report was issued today by Susan Spence, MBA, Chair of the Institute for Supply Management® (ISM®) Manufacturing Business Survey Committee. Economic activity in the **manufacturing sector expanded in April for the fourth consecutive month**, say the nation's supply executives in the latest **ISM® Manufacturing PMI® Report**. "The Manufacturing PMI® registered 52.7% in April, the same reading as March. The overall economy continued in expansion for the 18th month in a row. (A Manufacturing PMI® above 47.5%, over a period of time, generally indicates an expansion of the overall economy.) The Employment Index registered 46.4%, down 2.3 percentage points from March's figure of 48.7%," says Spence. [April](#)
8. **SpaceX Wants to Blast Data Centers Into Orbit. Here's What It May Take by Claire Hogan** - Earlier this year, SpaceX filed an application with the FCC petitioning to launch up to a million satellites as part of an "orbital data center." It has also become a big part of Elon Musk's pitch to investors ahead of his massive SpaceX IPO. We asked an engineer to break down the biggest technical hurdles and costly barriers to putting data centers in space. Watch the video to see what it would actually take to make it work. [Elon Musk wants to put data centers in space — here's what that could actually look like](#)

**9. Canada-U.S. Oil Pipeline Close to Reaching Commitment Requirement** - The Alberta-to-Wyoming pipeline, proposed by Canadian pipeline company South Bow Corp and its U.S. partner Bridger Pipeline, could increase Canada's crude exports to the U.S. by more than 12 per cent if it goes ahead, bringing much-needed pipeline takeaway capacity to Canada. While the new proposal takes a different route through the U.S. than the canceled Keystone XL, South Bow's portion would revive about 150 km (93 miles) on the Canadian side that has already been built and is sitting idle. That pipe would then connect to Bridger's proposed pipeline in Montana and extend about 645 miles to Guernsey, Wyoming. [Canada-U.S. oil pipeline close to reaching requirement](#)

**10. The US Sets Record Energy Production in 2025** - Total energy production in the United States increased to a new record of 107 quadrillion British thermal units (quads) in 2025, a 3.4% increase from the previous record set in 2024, according to new data in the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) latest Monthly Energy Review. Total production was driven by record-high production in natural gas, crude oil, natural gas plant liquids (NGPLs), and renewables. This was the fourth consecutive year in which the United States set a [record for total energy production](#). Coal accounted for 10% of domestic energy production in 2025. [The US Sets Record Energy Production in 2025 – tEDmag](#)



**11. EPIC | Electrical Power Innovations Conference, October 13-15, Dallas** - EPIC will bring together organizations and professionals engaged in exploring future trends that will shape the power industry over the next 5, 10, and 20 years, with an eye on improving power resiliency and safety. Twenty of the industry's top experts will deliver presentations on emerging technologies, smart grid modernizations, and electrical power service futures. Subject matter experts and conference attendees will collaborate on strategies and pathways for advancing the electrical power systems industry.

[Home - EPIC26 Conference](#)

[EPIC26 - Electrical Power Innovations Conference | Register Now](#)

**12. ABC: Nonresidential Construction Adds 19K Jobs in April** - The construction industry added 9,000 jobs on net in April, according to an [Associated Builders and Contractors](#) analysis of data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On a year-over-year basis, industry employment has expanded by 50,000 jobs, an increase of 0.6%. Nonresidential construction employment increased by 19,000 positions, with gains in all three subcategories. Nonresidential specialty traded added the most jobs, increasing by 12,600 positions. Nonresidential building and heavy and civil engineering added 5,600 and 800 jobs, respectively, in April. The construction unemployment rate was 3.8% in April. Unemployment across all industries remained unchanged at 4.3% and is 0.1 percentage point higher than it was a year ago. [ABC: Nonresidential Construction Adds 19K Jobs in April](#)

13. **NextEra, Dominion Merger Creates World's Largest Utility** - [NextEra Energy](#) will buy [Dominion Energy](#) in an all-stock deal valued at nearly \$67 billion, uniting two leading players in the race to meet growing electricity demand from data centers that run artificial intelligence. [NextEra Energy \(NEE\) to buy Dominion Energy \(D\)](#) The combination will create the world's largest regulated electric utility business, fortified by North America's premier energy infrastructure platform and developer. The combined company will be more than 80% regulated, serve approximately 10 million utility customer accounts across Florida, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina and own 110 gigawatts (GW) of generation across a broad mix of energy sources. The combined company will drive affordability in the long term by leveraging scale and operating and capital efficiencies as the company makes smart investments on behalf of its customers to meet growing power demand. Additionally, the combined company is proposing \$2.25 billion in bill credits for Dominion Energy's customers in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina spread over two years post-close. [Business News Today - tEDmag](#)

14. **Wanted: Energy Savings: 2026 Lighting Rebate Outlook by Craig DiLouie** - The [commercial lighting rebate outlook](#) for 2026 remains strong, with rebates available in about 75% of the United States and covering all popular LED and [lighting control](#) categories. About 7% of rebate programs started the year with bonuses already in place, according to rebate fulfillment firm BriteSwitch, Kingston, N.J., but many are taking a more strategic approach by aggressively promoting LED options most likely to produce high energy savings. Average rebates for LED products rose 17%, with larger increases—exceeding 30%—for products replacing HID luminaires. Meanwhile, the number of rebate programs incentivizing LED-to-LED upgrades increased by 22%. While still accounting for less than 10% of the total number of rebate programs, this is a trend worth watching. In 2026, 6% of programs shifted from basing incentives on a per-unit-installed basis to other metrics such as power or energy savings. This combines the flexibility and innovation of custom rebates with the relatively straightforward prescriptive rebates, promoting thoughtful design and product selection that maximize energy savings. [Wanted: Energy Savings: 2026 lighting rebate outlook | Craig DiLouie - Electrical Contractor Magazine](#)

15. **Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding Bill Introduced in Congress** - On May 17, 2026, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee introduced the BUILD America 250 Act – Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th Act. It is the Committee's bipartisan, five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill that invests in America's roads, bridges, transit, rail transportation, and highway and motor carrier safety programs. Fundamentally, the bill emphasizes moving people, goods, and freight safely and efficiently across the country. The legislation outlines approximately \$580 billion in federal infrastructure funding over five years (FY 2027–FY 2031). It is designed to replace the expiring Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which sunsets on September 30, 2026.

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding Bill Introduced in Congress](#)



16. **NEMRA Lighting Summit 26 - October 15th - October 17th** - Hilton Anatole | Dallas, TX -The NEMRA Lighting Summit is designed specifically for Lighting Agencies and Representatives and Lighting & Controls Manufacturers. The summit provides an exclusive setting for structured business planning and strategy, with an emphasis on strengthening Manufacturer–Agent partnerships. Designed for high-value business planning, the Summit brings Manufacturer–Agent partners together to align strategy, strengthen relationships, and plan for 2027, all in one location. The cornerstone of the Summit is the One-on-One strategic planning sessions between Agencies and Manufacturers. These meetings are designed to review performance, set goals, and align on strategies for the coming business year. [Home - NEMRA Lighting Summit 26](#)



**17. Commercial Electricity Use Will Likely Surpass Residential in 2027: EIA** - Commercial electricity consumption is likely to surpass residential use for the first time on record in 2027, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said Tuesday in its Short-Term Energy Outlook. The commercial sector, which includes hyperscalers, bitcoin miners and cloud computing, is expected to see electricity sales grow 2.2% to about 1,530 billion kWh in 2026 — roughly the same as the residential sector — followed by 5.3% growth the following year, EIA said. Demand from the residential sector, which has historically accounted for the largest share of U.S. electricity use, will remain largely flat over the next two years, growing about 0.5% in 2026 and 2027. Total U.S. electricity consumption in 2026 will be almost 4,250 billion kWh, up 1.3% from 2025, and is expected to grow 3.1% in 2027.

[Commercial electricity use will likely surpass residential in 2027: EIA | Utility Dive](#)

**18. America's Power Grid Can't Keep Up with AI Demand by Ambia Staley** - The U.S. needs about 5,000 miles of high-voltage transmission per year to keep pace with electricity demand. In 2024, just 888 miles were completed, according to an [analysis by Grid Strategies](#). That gap is widening even as data center developers race to bring tens of gigawatts of new load online. The result is a structural mismatch between the speed at which demand arrives and the speed at which the grid can absorb it. Global electricity demand from data centers grew by 17% in 2025, [according to the International Energy Agency](#), with AI-focused data center electricity consumption growing even faster, surging 50%. In the U.S., data centers now account for about half of the country's incremental demand growth, according to the IEA's global energy assessment. [AI data centers have U.S. power grid struggling to keep up](#)

**19. IEA: Global EV Sales Headed for Another Record Year Despite the Early Stumble by Michelle Lewis** - According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) new Global EV Outlook, electric car sales are expected to hit 23 million in 2026, making up nearly 30% of all new cars sold worldwide. That comes after EV sales topped 20 million in 2025, up 20% year over year, with 1 in 4 new cars sold globally now electric. The IEA says global EV sales momentum is continuing despite the ongoing energy crisis tied to the war in the Middle East. And in many places, rising fuel prices are actually making EVs look even more attractive to buyers. The IEA said nearly 90 countries posted year-over-year EV sales growth in March, and around 30 countries set monthly records. The report projects the global EV fleet could grow from nearly 80 million vehicles today to as many as 510 million by 2035. [IEA: Global EV sales headed for another record year despite the early stumble | Electrek](#)

**20. AI Is Enabling the Next Generation of Distributor Workflows by Michael Delgado** - Workflows at distributors have been more or less the same for decades. Quoting, order entry, PO tracking and invoicing still rely on emails, spreadsheets and ERPs with manual effort expected to close the gap. That model worked when volumes were lower and expectations were more forgiving, but the world is changing. AI does not just speed up existing processes, it changes where the work starts. Instead of manually decoding customer requests from zero, teams can rely on AI to interpret imprecise inputs and return accurate product matches. Translating requests into usable data becomes a background process that happens before a request ever reaches a sales rep. AI also has a level of adaptability that traditional software lacks. It learns over time, picking up on customer preferences and surfacing relevant SKUs and frequently ordered items preemptively. The result is a faster, more accurate quoting process, and reps who are free to spend time with customers instead of spreadsheets. AI has moved from a competitive advantage to a baseline requirement to keep pace. [AI Is Enabling the Next Generation of Distributor Workflows | Electrical Wholesaling](#)

**21. NVIDIA to Invest Up to \$500B in AI Data Center Construction in US** - NVIDIA is working with its manufacturing partners to design and build factories that, for the first time, will produce NVIDIA AI supercomputers entirely in the U.S. NVIDIA Blackwell chips have started production at TSMC's chip plants in Phoenix, Arizona. NVIDIA is building supercomputer manufacturing plants in Texas, with Foxconn in Houston and with Wistron in Dallas. Mass production at both plants is expected to ramp up in the next 12-15 months. Within the next four years, NVIDIA plans to produce up to half a trillion dollars of AI infrastructure in the United States through partnerships with TSMC, Foxconn, Wistron, Amkor and SPIL. NVIDIA AI supercomputers are the engines of a new type of data center created for the sole purpose of processing artificial intelligence — AI factories. [NVIDIA to Invest Up to \\$500B in AI Data Center Construction in US – tEDmag](#)

**22. NVIDIA and Corning Announce Long-Term Partnership** - NVIDIA and Corning Incorporated today announced a multi-year commercial and technology partnership to dramatically expand U.S.-based manufacturing of the advanced optical connectivity solutions needed to power next-generation AI infrastructure. Corning will increase its U.S.-based optical connectivity manufacturing capacity by 10x and expand its U.S. fiber production capacity by more than 50% to meet the accelerating demand driven by AI factory buildouts. The expansion includes the construction of three new advanced manufacturing facilities in North Carolina and Texas and the creation of more than 3,000 new high-paying American jobs. Corning's expanded capacity will supply the optical connectivity hyperscale data centers use to deploy NVIDIA-accelerated computing at scale. [\[News\] NVIDIA and Corning Announce Long-Term Partnership To Strengthen U.S. Manufacturing for AI Infrastructure - LEDinside](#)

**23. Nvidia to Increase Spend in Taiwan by \$150 Billion** - Nvidia announced its plan to expand spending on chip manufacturing in Taiwan to \$150 billion, up from \$10 billion just a few years ago. By the end of the year, Nvidia will have a brand-new office complex called Constellation, and could have as many as 4,000 employees in northern Taipei when it opens by the end of the decade. Right now, Nvidia has about 1,000 employees in Taiwan. Nvidia will design the new AI computer chips. TSMC, the world's largest chip maker, will manufacture them. As a result, Nvidia will be TSMC's largest customer, surpassing Apple. [Business News Today – tEDmag](#)

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## Industry Resources

**24. Dept. of Labor Launches AI-Focused Apprenticeship Website** - The U.S. Department of Labor announced the launch of its [AI in Registered Apprenticeship Innovation Portal](#), a one-stop resource for organizations looking to build artificial intelligence literacy and develop AI-focused Registered Apprenticeship programs. Announced during the National Apprenticeship Week event, "[Building the AI-Ready Workforce through Registered Apprenticeship](#)," the website provides practical tools and actionable guidance to help organizations integrate artificial intelligence skills into Registered Apprenticeship programs through skill-building resources, industry-specific training, and flexible program pathways. The initiative builds on the objectives laid out in the department's AI Literacy Framework that was released earlier this year. [Dept. of Labor Launches AI-Focused Apprenticeship Website – tEDmag](#)



**25. Then Came the Robots by Jim Romeo** - The construction industry continues to pursue automation, with robotics emerging as a central pillar of that transformation. While the pace of adoption remains uneven, new data and recent field experience suggest that robots are moving rapidly toward practical tools, though with constraints, that will shape the industry's trajectory over the next decade. According to the [Coherent Market Insights construction robots report](#), the global construction robotics market is projected to grow from roughly \$105.8 million in 2026 to \$315 million by 2033, representing a compound annual growth rate of about 16.9%. A key underlying driver is labor scarcity. Contractors across North America and other developed markets face persistent shortages of skilled workers; a trend expected to intensify as older people retire. This dynamic is already accelerating demand for automation technologies, particularly in tasks such as bricklaying, demolition and 3D printing—areas identified as high-growth segments in the market. To the pervasive automation anxiety that always worries workers and laborers, robots are not displacing workers as much as filling gaps that the labor market can no longer reliably supply.

[Then Came the Robots - Electrical Contractor Magazine](#)

**26. Lighting Controls Academy Publishes Video Course on Lighting Controls and the 2024 IECC** - The Lighting Controls Academy is pleased to offer Lighting Controls and the 2024 IECC, a Lighting Controls Academy course, available as a free video. Commercial building energy codes regulate the design energy efficiency of new buildings and renovations. This Education Express course provides general introductory knowledge about the lighting control requirements in the 2024 version of the IECC. By the end, you will be able to: 1) recognize projects and lighting systems covered by the 2024 IECC, 2) identify lighting control strategies applicable to various building spaces in projects covered by the 2024 IECC, 3) incorporate requirements in the 2021 IECC into Owner Project Requirements and Basis of Design documentation, and 4) plan lighting control solutions that comply with the 2024 IECC. This course is registered and/or recognized by NCQLP (LC), NALMCO (CLCP), DLC, and the State of California. [EE203 The 2024 IECC and Lighting Controls](#)

**27. Welcome to NEMA Academy** - NEMA Academy is our new online platform offering accessible, high-quality training to strengthen industry knowledge and support workforce development. Advance your expertise with trusted, industry-backed training in lighting controls, dimming systems, and energy code compliance. Whether you're focused on LED lighting controls, building automation, or IoT integration, NEMA Academy offers practical, standards-based courses to help you stay competitive and compliant. Explore our webstore and start learning today—designed for professionals who power the future of the built environment. [NEMA Academy](#)

**28. NAED Invests in New Electrical Career Outreach Effort** - National Association of Electrical Distributors launches “Careers with Power” campaign to strengthen workforce pipeline. A strong workforce doesn't happen by accident — it begins with awareness. Yesterday, the National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED) announced the launch of Careers with Power, a comprehensive industry branding campaign designed to position electrical distribution as a dynamic, rewarding, and future-ready career destination. Careers with Power is built with a clear purpose: to introduce the electrical distribution industry to the next generation of talent and connect interested candidates directly to distributor career opportunities. Through a strategic mix of digital tools, social media outreach, and partnerships with leading workforce development organizations, the campaign meets potential employees where they are — and guides them toward meaningful careers in the industry. [NAED Invests in New Electrical Career Outreach Effort | Electrical Wholesaling](#)

**29. BriteSwitch: The Hassle of Approved Product Lists for EV Charger Rebates** - EV charger rebates remain very strong heading into 2026, but finding an incentive is only the first step. Qualifying for it can be much harder. One of the biggest challenges is the continued use of Approved Product Lists, or APLs. These lists determine which chargers or networks are eligible for certain rebate programs. **24% of incentive programs across North America currently have an Approved Product List.** That may sound modest, but many of these programs cover major markets where missing from the list can have a significant impact. Getting on these lists can take a lot of work, and not every manufacturer prioritizes the process. So we looked at which charger brands and networks appear most often on approved lists across North America. According to BriteSwitch's RebatePro for EV Chargers, a record 85% of the US is currently covered by rebates, incentives, grants, or tax credits for installing EV charging equipment. [The Hassle of Approved Product Lists for EV Charger Rebates](#)

**30. Lighting Controls Academy Updates Occupancy and Vacancy Sensors Course** - The Lighting Controls Academy is pleased to announce it has updated its popular Education Express course, EE102A: Occupancy and Vacancy Sensors, now available at NEMA Academy. As a key automatic shutoff strategy, occupancy and vacancy sensors save energy by turning lighting Off when a space becomes unoccupied. Authored by C. Webster Marsh and Craig DiLouie, LC, CLCP, EE102A: Occupancy and Vacancy Sensors provides education about specifying sensors where needed to comply with energy codes, selecting appropriate sensing technology and features, and applying sensors to various space types. [Click here](#) to take the Occupancy and Vacancy Sensors course at NEMA Academy.

## Articles of Interest

31. **The AI Revolution and its Impact on Facilities Management by Ronnie Wendt** - The idea of AI replacing technicians maintaining HVAC systems, plumbing infrastructure or electrical components feels a long way off. That's because the complexity and variability of building systems make that kind of automation difficult, according to Jonathan Slain, founder and CEO of Autobahn Consultants. Slain says the highest returns for AI are in back-office functions. "It's in finance, communication and project management." Tasks like assembling proposals, drafting RFPs, managing workflows, communicating with team members, and evaluating submissions from multiple vendors are well-suited for AI support. These processes are structured and repeatable, allowing AI tools to streamline comparisons, highlight differences, and speed up bid-to-decision timelines. AI can slash the time required to evaluate bids and manage communication. Many facilities managers already use generative AI to summarize documents or draft emails. But a more advanced phase of this technology, called Agentic AI, is already here. For more insights on how growing companies are navigating this transition, Slain explores these ideas further in "Rock Your Business: Navigating the Road from \$50 Million to \$500 Million and Beyond," available soon on Amazon. [The AI Revolution and its Impact on Facilities Management - Facilities Management Insights](#)

32. **The April 2026 Issue of Electrical Construction and Maintenance (EC&M) -**

[Opportunities and Obstacles in the AI Data Center Market | EC&M](#)

[A New Model for Increasing Data Center Build Speed | EC&M](#)

[Rethinking Data Center Construction for Electrical Contractors | EC&M](#)

[Addressing Power Quality Challenges in AI Data Centers | EC&M](#)

[Environmental Conditions That Impact Industrial Lighting Reliability | EC&M](#)

[Smart Home Lighting: A New Revenue Stream for Contractors | EC&M](#)

[Harnessing the Power of Connected Lighting Systems and IoT | EC&M](#)

[Home | EC&M](#)

33. **Researchers Prepare Robots for an Aging Society** - As the U.S. faces a historic demographic shift, Stanford experts are developing robots to help older adults walk safely, get dressed, do chores, and maintain independence at home.

### In brief:

- America's aging population is driving a need for robotic caregiving solutions.
- Stanford labs are developing assistive technologies from walking companion robots to soft inflatable lifters to touch-sensitive robotic fingertips.
- These innovations aim to help older adults age independently at home, addressing a shortage in caregiving resources.

Monroe Kennedy III, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Stanford Robotics Center thinks it could be a tool for older people in their homes. Its fine dexterity could help perform tasks like opening medicine bottles or picking up a dropped pill, and its gentleness could one day enable direct physical assistance in bathing or dressing. Progress requires more investment and more research, Kennedy says, but he's optimistic we're not far from a day when robots step in to make aging in place much easier. "We're a lot closer than you think." [Researchers prepare robots for an aging society | Stanford Report](#)

## LearnersLive Special Feature

**Lighting Controls: From Code Compliance to Retrofits by Sean Grasby** - When we talk about lighting controls, we often limit the conversation by focusing on how lights are turned on and off, or how to optimize lighting in various spaces to enhance productivity or conserve energy. While these are important things to consider, in reality, any conversation about lighting control systems should also include several other elements as well. When electrical contractors engage with customers about lighting controls, they should ensure that any conversations also incorporate code requirements, “future-proofing,” and whether a retrofit may be beneficial. [Lighting Controls: From Code Compliance to Retrofits | EC&M](#)

### Ensuring lighting controls meet code requirements

As energy codes become more stringent, contractors now need to collaborate with lighting designers, architects, and engineers to not only ensure the lighting design and performance fit the specific needs, but also to comply with industry codes. Clearly, this is no small task — in many cases, a trusted distribution partner can bring in the right expertise or handle much of the administrative burden on the contractor’s behalf.

### Key Takeaways

- Ensuring lighting control systems meet industry standards such as ASHRAE 90.1, IECC, and NFPA 101 is essential for compliance and safety.
- Future-proofing involves selecting adaptable, integrated lighting controls that support upgrades and system integrations like HVAC and BMS.
- Retrofits offer a cost-effective way to upgrade lighting technology, improve efficiency, and reduce disruption compared to new construction projects.
- Advanced controls like luminaire level lighting control (LLLC) optimize energy use and enable real-time environmental adjustments.

