



Spotlight

Walking the Talk

Douglas Lighting Controls Retrofits Centre of Excellence with Own Solutions, Sees Immediate Payback

For many modern businesses moving to a new office space means striking a delicate balance between vital criteria such as a central location, an attractive work setting, and the ability to reduce operational costs while supporting high productivity.

Douglas Lighting Controls, part of the Panasonic family of companies, is among a number of growing businesses in the Vancouver, British Columbia area vying to create this type of environment in order to compete with top employers, including Electronic Arts (EA), Lululemon, Schneider Electric and other locally based powerhouses.

“There’s no question that these types of companies are currently attracting the best business and technology talent locally because of the workplace amenities they can provide,” said Rob Mahaffey, General Manager at Douglas Lighting Controls, which manufactures relay panels, daylight sensors, Bluetooth wireless controls and more as part of integrated lighting systems. “To create parity from a competitive perspective, we decided to invest in an attractive workspace that would enhance current

and future employee partners’ comfort and satisfaction.”

But the process of selecting the right space for Douglas required special attention to a unique design need: a facility where its own products could be tested and monitored as if they were in a client’s workspace.

“Unrestricted access to this type of living laboratory environment for

our engineering department allows us to become more customer-centric and develop advanced high-quality products ahead of market demand,” said Mahaffey.

Rather than taking on the burden of new construction to create

this test-bed facility, Mahaffey and team selected a 9,500 sq. ft. space in a multi-tenanted office building just minutes from the company’s former headquarters building in Burnaby, British Columbia. The office features a generous amount of glazing in addition to separate test, demonstration and workspace areas, making it the ideal location to gather raw data about its lighting solutions. Open work areas and team breakout areas also help create a comfortable workspace for all employee partners.

“We’re learning from our experiences daily and are excited for the opportunity to lead the transformation towards the fully integrated lighting systems and office environments of the future.”

In Brief

Project:

Douglas Lighting Controls
Centre of Excellence

Location:

Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

Products Used:

- Douglas Lighting Controls Bluetooth Wireless Controllers (BT-PP20-A)
- Douglas Lighting Controls Bluetooth Wireless Sensors (BT-WOR-A)
- Douglas Lighting Controls Bluetooth Wireless 1-Button & Dimmer Wall Switches (BT-DMSW-U-A)
- Douglas Lighting Controls Bluetooth Wireless 8-Button Wall Switches (BT-8BTSW-U-A)

Features & Benefits:

- Bluetooth Controllers allow adjustability that lowers energy use by up 15 percent, converting fixtures into wirelessly controlled luminaires
- The dual-technology, ceiling-mounted occupancy and daylight sensors feature PIR (Passive Infrared) and Bluetooth Beacon proximity detection
- The Bluetooth Switches provide wall station control over lighting in rooms and defined spaces

For More Information:

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During the planning phase, Douglas leaned heavily on its own in-house applications and design team to set out a plan for implementing its control capabilities exclusively throughout the space. For external projects, specifying engineers will utilize this team to help determine an appropriate lighting control strategy and ensure code compliance.

“Given our experience creating lighting control strategies for commercial spaces in office park environments like ours, it made sense to run this project ourselves,” said Mahaffey. “We partnered with our sister company, Universal Lighting Technologies, to source LED drivers and modules. We also installed some of our latest technological advancements, such as wireless lighting controls featuring Bluetooth wireless mesh technology. Our wireless control solution was perfect for this application because control wires add significant additional labour cost to the installation of a lighting controls system in an existing building.”

Other technology includes daylight harvesting, which measures the amount of natural light entering the building and automatically adjusts luminary output to save energy and optimize occupant comfort.

Early feedback on the office space further validates Douglas’s investment. Not only has the company effectively reduced energy expenditures in the space by more than 50 percent year-over-year, but the payback period for the LED lighting and controls technology is estimated at less than three years. That’s due in large part to optimization

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tests conducted by the applications and design team, which showed that the space would be better lit after reducing the number of fixtures in the building from 110 to 80.

Perhaps more impressive, says Mahaffey, is that the new office space has balanced the need for testing Douglas products with employee partners’ need for a well-lit office that will not disrupt their work. Not only does the new space enable Douglas to gather feedback in a quality-controlled environment, but also to showcase the industry’s latest technological advancements and developments—all under one roof.

“Due to our investment in this Centre of Excellence facility, we’ve made significant progress towards our long-term vision of becoming a highly visible development house that stands apart in a very competitive job market,” said Mahaffey. “We’re learning from our experiences daily and are excited for the opportunity to lead the transformation towards the fully integrated lighting systems and office environments of the future.”



Douglas Lighting Controls

Douglas Lighting Controls, a member of the Panasonic family of companies, develops innovative controls systems and works to engineer end-to-end energy-efficient, easy-to-install digital lighting control solutions for commercial buildings, campuses and sports complexes throughout North America. With over 50 years in operation, Douglas is recognized for their deep understanding of lighting control systems and ability to provide the right solution for each facility.

Want to know more?

Take a virtual tour of the new facility by visiting the Douglas Lighting Controls website, www.douglaslightingcontrols.com.

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