

Hospitality Lighting

As the hospitality sector begins to reopen, we ask some experts in the field about how smart lighting solutions can help to improve staff and customer safety while promoting energy efficiency.



Nick Shaw,
Technical Services Director at
Dextra Group plc.



Paul Jones,
Sales Director UK & Ireland at
BEG Lighting Controls



Mark Booth,
Managing Director of
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Alok Hada,
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With outdoor dining spaces allowed to reopen in parts of the UK this month, building owners and managers must ensure their facilities are COVID-secure to meet regulations and to entice customers back to restaurants, pubs and in the not-so-distant future, hotels and B&Bs.

Harmful germs and bacteria can survive on surfaces and provide a hotspot for transmission. By reducing the number of shared touchpoints within a space, the risk can be minimised. Nick Shaw, Technical Services Director at Dextra Group plc, comments, "The pressures on the hospitality sector to reopen with a strong focus on COVID-19 safety has resulted in a rapid growth in associated products, the lighting sector included, especially with regards to sterilisation and avoidance of contact points. Elimination of light switches is the most obvious risk mitigation with the use of presence detection sensors becoming more common place. However, numerous contactless switch products have also been launched enabling lighting to be switched with only the wave of a hand."

Over the past year, the industry has seen the rapid growth and use of UVC light, as Nick explains, "Another sector that has expanded promptly on the back of the pandemic is UVC lighting for sterilisation, these are often heavily promoted to hospitality sectors for areas such as lifts and other close



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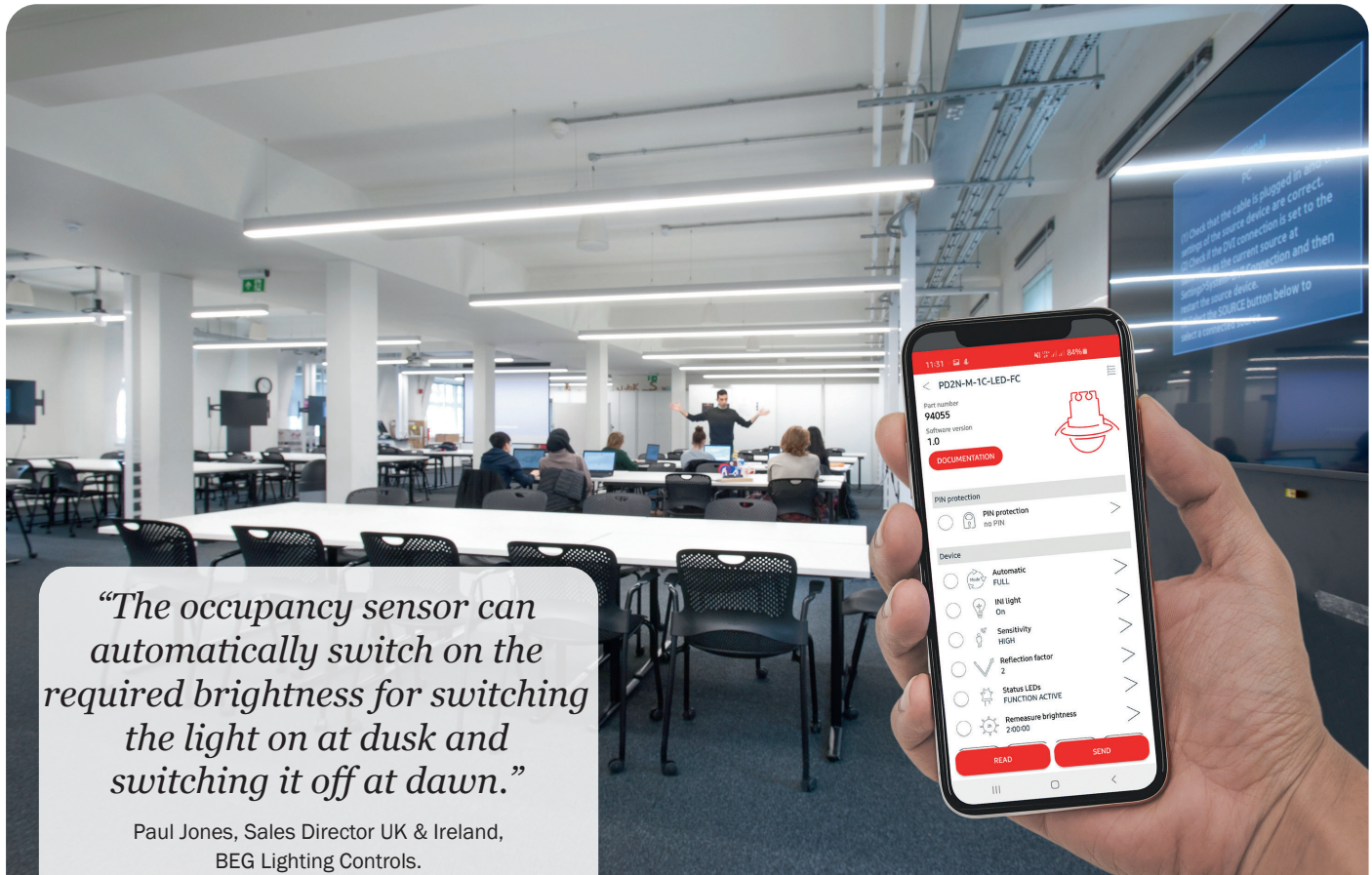
contact points where transmission is more likely to occur.

However, whilst such lighting can certainly help provide quick and effective sterilisation, the dangers of such products are on occasion downplayed by some manufacturers to promote sales. All personnel must be protected from exposure to such sources given the risk of eye and skin damage and effective sterilisation can only be achieved with sufficient exposure time at the correct proximity. When used correctly, UVC sterilisation can certainly help to ensure our

safety when hospitality reopens but it should always be used with appropriate safety measures and in areas in which it can be applied effectively."

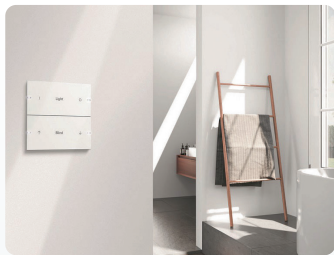
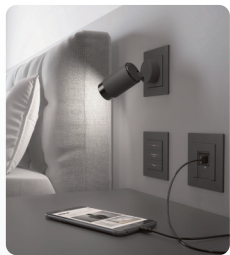
In addition to the safety benefits, smart lighting solutions that promote touchless technology also offer greater flexibility to hospitality owners. Paul Jones, Sales Director UK & Ireland at BEG Lighting Controls, comments, "The DALI LINK system is an easy way to provide a flexible, scalable and smartphone-accessible DALI lighting control system. It is Bluetooth-

Image courtesy of Dextra Group plc.



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Mark Booth, Managing Director, Gira UK Ltd.



Image courtesy of Gira UK Ltd.

enabled and easy to configure. The innovative pushbutton interface is combined with a suitable retractable switch plate. It houses a Bluetooth interface, which allows easy programming via a smartphone or tablet device using the BEG app.”

Paul continues, “Pubs, restaurants and hotels can use these systems to activate pre-set scenes at any time and create scenes with up to 16 scenarios available, or create their own. The lighting can also be conventionally switched and dimmed to adjust the brightness levels as required. Designed with two powerful and dimmable LEDs as a downlight, the guide light can individually set the light threshold for each light scene. The occupancy sensor can automatically switch on the required brightness for switching the light on at dusk and switching it off at dawn.”

There is also the added benefit that by installing smart lighting solutions, the hospitality sector can increase energy efficiency and reduce its overheads. “A significant part of the running costs of a customer-focused environment will be electricity in terms of internal

and exterior lighting, so that guests feel safe in the grounds and public spaces like lounges and cloakrooms, and also to improve hazard perception and prevent accidents such as slips and trips

With this in mind, investing in automated sensor technology alongside smart lighting will help to ensure that light only comes on when a human presence is detected so that people can safely navigate the premises without the lights being on 24/7, regardless of activity. By relying on sensors rather than traditional switches, staff and customers will also be protected from virus transmission on touch controls, as well as promoting energy savings,” says Mark Booth, Managing Director of Gira UK Ltd.

The latest smart lighting systems can also be controlled remotely, meaning a site manager doesn’t have to be on location to make changes. “Instead, it is quick and easy to alter when and where the lights need to be switched on or off remotely via a smartphone or tablet app. This technology ensures that changes made the night before, for example, can be safely and easily managed at the touch



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of a screen from anywhere at any time,” adds Mark.

Automated systems can help to control other elements within a space to further increase safety, comfort and convenience. “Another advantage of smart lighting systems in a hospitality setting is that they can be seamlessly incorporated with other functions such as air conditioning and temperature control so that a bathroom can be fully ventilated immediately after every use and air quality can be maintained in gyms and changing areas, for example,” adds Mark.


In hotels, automated systems can also be utilised to control a number of operational tasks, promoting a seamless, and COVID-secure experience. Alok Hada, Director of Anusha Technovision Pvt. Ltd., comments, “The aim of incorporating automation into hospitality is mainly driven by making the living experience of the customers more comfortable and luxurious; however, it is soon evolving into a necessity as it not only offers ease of use and navigation but also adds excellent economical and operational benefits to the hotel owners. With

the advancement in technology, the hospitality experience has transformed. As customer and staff safety is of utmost importance, incorporating an automated control system allows contactless check-in, book-keeping, payment, room service, etc., to contactless room control and access of thermal control through personal gadgets like mobile phones and voice-activated devices.”

Alok continues, “Public areas and common washrooms can also have contactless fittings and motion sensor lighting, eliminating the need for physical interaction with the environment. Automation accelerates the much-needed navigational speed in the hospitality industry as one moves between tasks and offers the visitors an experience that is filled with ease and comfort. The motion sensor lighting ensures that these spaces are lit when required, making them economically viable, energy efficient, and environment friendly.”

As restrictions begin to ease, smart lighting and automated control systems can help the hospitality sector to get back on its feet by adding an extra layer of



safety for customers and staff whilst also helping to keep energy costs down. 

Images courtesy of Anusha Technovision Pvt. Ltd.

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