January 26, 2012
MaxLite Webinar Q&A: Commercial Outdoor Lighting

Jack Schelling from Manchester, NH: Is there any advantage to nonliquid mercury in an induction lamp?
Greg: Yes and No... Liquid mercury (hg) allows the lamp to come up to full brightness very quickly (run up time), it is much slower with solid hg but solid hg allows the lamp to operate at both higher and lower temperatures.

Roger Northrop from Monrovia, CA: what about claims that the electronic components do not last as long as the lamp modules?
Greg: The weak link in induction is the electronic components that make up the frequency generator. In a T8 fluorescent it is the cathode AKA filament. The limiting factors, as you pointed out, are the generator components and the means time between failures for these components (MTBF) are 100,000 hours.

Tim Baer from Oregon: I have a customer now where I want to replace some 500 Watt Halogens floods and 250W Wallpacks. Do you recommend an LED or Induction solution?
Greg: The lumen output for either will be about the same at the same wattage. I would make a recommendation based on ROI including maintenance and energy savings.

Brian Park from Commerce: Thank you for your presentation. I have a question. Do you have any induction retrofit kit system available?
Greg: MaxLite does not. One of the main reasons why companies like Phillips and Sylvania did not sell induction through distribution is because they would not be able to control the thermal conditions of the lamp and generator, they limited there sales to OE fixture makers. MaxLite does extensive testing to ensure the thermal conditions of each fixture will provide the expected performance and lifetime.

Ross Ichikawa from Hawaii: Good question Brian, I am interested in retrofitting with Induction as well
Greg: Ross, sorry to disappoint but when you see the prices MaxLite is offering these products at you will see that retrofitting is not worth the time.

Mike Stanz from Allentown, PA: I've heard that induction lighting has poor optical control and for this reason customers often replace them early with other technologies. What is your take on this?
Greg: Mike, you are correct concerning the external induction lamp types. They are large size lamps and very hard to control optically. This is the main reason why almost all induction fixtures have a flood type of

photometrics and in roadway lighting induction is only good for type V. If you try to control the optics with shields and cut offs the efficiency or delivered lumens are negatively impacted. Applications that require broad flood lighting such as flood light fixtures, high bay fixtures and canopy type fixtures this is a good light source. In the right application is does a great job. When it comes to the internal type induction lamps (A or G shaped) the light source is much more condensed. Even very similar to the HID type lamps and the optics can be arranged similarly with similar photometric results. The best way to avoid surprises is to have a lighting layout done before you make a purchase.

David Tallon: Thank you great information. Can you again briefly explain the difference between the internal and external induction systems?
Greg: The physical construction is different in that with the external type the frequency coils are on the outside and the internal type the frequency coils are on the inside.

JAE from VIRGINIA: I just came in. Is there anyway to hear what I missed?
Greg: Sorry Jae, the good news is that this full video presentation will be online at MaxLite.com and youtube.com in about 30 days.

Daniel Kasalek from AZ: What is the minimum start up temperature? Have induction fixtures been installed in freezer applications?
Greg: Another Great Question! Daniel, the min temp is zero but for colder temps we can alter the mercury (hg) form to work well in freezers.