

- Plessey and PhytoLux reach agreement to deliver LED grow light solution
- "It's not just about light" – PhytoLux Spring Seminar 2016, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden



The latest news, views and industry information from the LED grow light specialists



Plessey and PhytoLux reach agreement to deliver LED grow light solution

We are pleased to announce that Plessey has signed a global exclusive license agreement to manufacture and sell the PhytoLux[®] horticultural lighting solutions. Plessey has taken on the operational, technical and commercial activities of PhytoLux. This collaboration combines the best of British design engineering to provide world-class LED plant growth lighting solutions for the global market.

Steve Edwards, founder and MD of PhytoLux, now head of the LED lighting solutions division of Plessey, said, "Plessey, one of the UK's most prestigious engineering brands, is at the forefront of the global LED Lighting revolution. We are very excited to have reached this agreement with them and are looking forward to delivering our unique solution to the global horticultural market over the coming months and years. In the meantime, it is 'business as usual' and we will continue to provide the highest possible level of service, working closely with our customers to provide commercially viable LED grow light solutions."

Michael LeGoff, Plessey CEO commented, "Steve and the team at PhytoLux have built an impressive record of innovation and proof of concept with the researchers and commercial growers in the UK. The horticultural market is a key growth area for solid-state lighting and is without a significant dominant player. We believe we have an opportunity to be that dominant player with the PhytoLux end product. Our GaN-on-silicon, MAGIC™, technology for power LED applications is perfect for these kinds of directed lighting applications where we have very tight wavelength control. The next generation Plessey LEDs with integrated electronics and optics will further add to the intrinsic advantages of the PhytoLux range of products. We are very excited about the prospects of this deal in one of the fastest growing sectors for LED lighting."



This was the fourth PhytoLux seminar held at the impressive Rothamsted Research Conference Centre in Harpenden and featured a broad range of industry experts as speakers, some of whom have worked directly with PhytoLux and some of whom have worked in the wider LED plant growth lighting community.

PhytoLux has been involved in LED lighting plant growth technology since 2011, working closely with the Rothamsted Controlled Environments team to develop high output, energy efficient LED plant growth lighting. Throughout this journey the PhytoLux team has, where possible, shared any knowledge gained from our research, at all times ensuring that any commercially sensitive data is only released with the agreement of our partners.

Seminar objective

To educate delegates regarding where LED plant growth lighting is at today, including performance, efficiency and achievements, the challenges of changing to/introducing this new technology and how to optimise and gain maximum benefit from growing under LED's. This will include reference to the commercial viability of extending the growing season and future innovations that may open up new fields of research.



Wheat being grown under PhytoLux LED grow lights at Rothamsted Research

PhytoLux Spring Seminar



David Bodworth, Tanllan Farm



Tom Pitman, Bristol University



Maarten Klein and Steve Edwards answering delegate questions



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Speakers at the PhytoLux Spring Seminar 2016

- 1 **Steve Edwards**, MD of PhytoLux, gave a brief overview of the history of PhytoLux and the different elements that need to be taken into consideration when growing with LED lights.
- 2 **Michael LeGoff**, CEO of Plessey Semiconductors, explained how they are exploiting the cost benefit of using standard silicon substrates in their LEDs for solid state lighting and how this will be beneficial to the future development of horticultural grow lights.
- 3 **Julian Franklin**, Head of Controlled Environments Rothamsted Research, outlined some of the trials that have taken place at Rothamsted that have led them to replace the majority of the traditional HPS lights with PhytoLux LED grow lights.
- 4 **Laura McLean**, Account Manager PhytoLux, described the process and results of trials carried out in recent months with the University of Bristol, Syngenta and Wallings.
- 5 **Maarten Klein**, University of Amsterdam, explained the latest thinking following trials with LED grow lights in Holland.
- 6 **Dr Paul Challinor**, May Barn Consultancy, outlined some of the issues facing commercial growers when considering the implementation of LED grow lights.
- 7 **Angus Padfield**, Development Director Unigro, explained the benefits of using control systems with LED grow lights to provide plants with the right light at the right time whilst minimising energy costs.
- 8 **Steve Edwards**, MD PhytoLux, closed the seminar by emphasising the positive benefits of sharing knowledge and his desire to continue with this ethos in the future.

PHYTOLUX SEMINAR 2016 "IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT LIGHT"

Rothamsted Research, Harpenden

Steve Edwards, Founder and MD of PhytoLux explains; *"Over the past two years, it has been a key focus for us to work with the 65+ organisations that have installed our lighting solutions in order to understand how to optimise results through manipulation and adjustment of all environmental control conditions essential for plant growth. It is only by understanding the impact of this new technology on growing techniques that we can ultimately achieve commercially viable solutions"*

Lance Penketh, Plant Growth Suite Manager at the University of Leeds, comments; *"There is definitely a change in the air with more delegates attending this annual seminar than ever before. LED grow lights are becoming much more main-stream now with nobody questioning if they work anymore. It is widely accepted that LED grow lights save energy and grow good plants"*.

Angus Padfield, Development Director Unigro, comments; *"The Phytolux seminar was excellent. It is extremely rare for suppliers to gather customers and encourage open debate and feedback relating to new products. When this is combined with the input of industry experts it illustrates a refreshing and progressive attitude, and ultimately better products and service"*.



Attis-7 grow lights at Rothamsted Research

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