A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM AMERLUX®

Amerlux - Supermarket Lighting | Supermarket Lighting Manufacturer



Mouthwatering fresh meat, fish, and produce

The new Cylindrix III Mini (C3M) is tiny, passively cooled, with an invisible heat sink and full dimming capacity.

Amerlux helps the nation's top supermarket brands transform into high-end retail destinations. Once upon a time, grocery stores craved evenly lit spaces, but now they request our versatile LED solutions, which give them a cool tone at full power while glowing warmer as the light is dimmed, emulating the familiar incandescent lamps.

Game-changing solution

Amerlux's SPEQ, which is a line of modern-styled track lighting solutions, incorporates the FreshFocus chip and the new Sundrop chip (100 CRI), producing a controlled, powerful and clean beam of light, which can be found in various high-end retailers, supermarkets and art galleries.

The SPEQ track head balances clean, minimal aesthetic design with industry-leading optical performance. Its snoot perfectly matches the fixture to provide excellent glare control, while maintaining clean fixture lines. The product offers other options, such as hexcell louver, Solite beam softening lens, linear spread lens and cross blade.

Market Observer

- 1. Lighting the Way for Electric Vehicles by Using Streetlamps as Chargers by Sarah Small A team of researchers at Penn State created a scalable framework to develop, analyze and evaluate using streetlights as a low-cost, equitable EV charging option. They then installed 23 streetlight charging units in Kansas City, Missouri, and tested their framework. The researchers found that streetlight charging stations, compared to traditional EV charging stations, were more cost- and time-effective, had fewer negative environmental impacts, and were more convenient and accessible. Their results were published in the Journal of Urban Planning and Development, which is overseen by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Lighting the way for electric vehicles by using streetlamps as chargers
- 2. Manufacturing Day: Inspiring the Next Generation of Makers by Kip Hanson We're talking about Manufacturing Day, described on the organizer's website as a "national grassroots movement that demonstrates the reality and future of modern manufacturing careers." And while manufacturing may no longer lead the nation in total employment as it did in Henry Ford's time, it remains one of the most productive and strategically vital sectors of the U.S. economy—contributing nearly \$3 trillion to GDP, employing more than 13 million Americans, and keeping the country secure, supplied and strong. That's why hundreds of high schools, vocational-technical colleges, Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) centers, and—perhaps most importantly—machine shops, sheet metal fabricators, plastic injection molders and other members of this proud industry open their doors on the first Friday of October each year to students, parents and educators for MFG Day, a celebration of modern manufacturing and the people who make it possible. Manufacturing Day: Inspiring the Next Generation of Makers | Manufacturing Week | advancedmanufacturing.org



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM AMERLUX®

NOV 2025

- 3. **Walmart CEO Issues Wake-Up Call on AI** Walmart executives aren't sugar coating the message: Artificial intelligence will wipe out some jobs and reshape the company's workforce. For now, Walmart executives say the transformation means the size of its global workforce will stay roughly flat even as its revenue climbs. It plans to maintain its headcount of around 2.1million global workers over the next three years, but the mix of those jobs will change significantly, said Donna Morris, Walmart's chief people officer. What the composition will look like remains murky. Though there is plenty of anxiety among workers and leaders, many executives say the U.S. labor market remains healthy and they don't anticipate widespread unemployment because of AI. 89qCx6UzCDStQHAyWTf5-WSJNewsPaper-9-29-2025.pdf
- 4. OpenAl Partners with Walmart to Let Users Buy Products in ChatGPT by Wyatte Grantham-Philips OpenAl is partnering with Walmart to let shoppers make purchases directly within ChatGPT, furthering the artificial intelligence company's push to turn its chatbot into a virtual merchant as it seeks to boost revenue. In an Tuesday announcement, Walmart said the new offering will give customers the option to "simply chat and buy." That means the retailer's products would be available through instant checkout in ChatGPT allowing users to buy anything from meal ingredients or household items to other goods they might be discussing with the chatbot. OpenAl partners with Walmart to let shoppers buy products in ChatGPT | AP News
- 5. **The Rise of DIY Healthcare** Healthcare is fast becoming a do-it-yourself project for patients. The trend comes amid a shortage of doctors, long wait times for appointments and an increasing prevalence of chronic diseases earlier in adulthood. In today's fast-evolving healthcare landscape, Al and other new technologies and services are emerging to help patients find and act on medical information. "The evidence shows that the more a patient gets involved in their own care, the better the outcomes. In the future, primary-care doctors could act more as expert consultants rather than paternalistic bosses to patients." Dr. Tom Delbanco The Rise of DIY Healthcare WSJ
- 6. **US Power Use to Reach Record Highs in 2025 and 2026, EIA Says by Scott Disavino** US power consumption is expected to reach record highs in 2025 and 2026, according to the Energy Information Administration, driven by data centers for AI and cryptocurrency and increased electrification in homes and businesses. The EIA projects a decrease in natural gas's share of power generation from 42% in 2024 to 40% in 2025 and 2026, while renewables are expected to rise from 23% to 26% over the same period. <u>US power use to reach record highs in 2025 and 2026, EIA says | Reuters</u>
- 7. **Faster Economic Growth, Weaker Hiring Seen by Harriet Torry and Anthony DeBarros** Prospects for U.S. economic growth are looking up, as investment in artificial intelligence booms and risks around tariffs diminish, according to economists surveyed by The Wall Street Journal. Even as the economists have raised estimates for economic growth, they have lowered prospects for jobs. Behind the strange dichotomy: Employers are reluctant to hire given political uncertainty and rising costs, even as their investment, especially in AI, is boosting productivity and economic growth. That slower job growth, however, won't translate into notably higher unemployment, because the Trump administration's crackdown on immigration is reducing the supply of workers. Economists expect the jobless rate to hover around 4.5% over the next year. It was 4.3% in August. https://doi.org/10.1016/jobless/linearing-to-10-13-2025.pdf
- 8. The Radical Changes That Are Making Your Smart Home Less Dumb Most homes are "smart". Now that they're getting a generative-Al overhaul, the question is: Can we get more out of devices that until now have been great at setting kitchen timers, reading the weather and playing music? Amazon's Alexa+ and Google's Gemini aim to fix that, by making smart homes less dumb. The tech giants introduced new speakers, home displays and cameras this week to capitalize on their evolved assistants, but most existing devices are also compatible. Gemini for Home arrives at the end of the month, and Amazon says 10 million households already have early access to Alexa+. As we wait for Apple's Siri to catch up—and we're hoping for news sometime next year—here are the three big changes coming to our homes right now.
 - 1. Cameras that tell you what's happening
 - 2. Speakers that have real conversations
 - 3. Automation without the app headache

Your Smart Home's Al Upgrade: Alexa+, Ring 'Search Party,' Google's Gemini for Home and More - WSJ



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NOV 2025

- 9. **Stellantis Says It will Invest \$13B to Expand Its US Operations, Adding More Than 5,000 Jobs by Alex Veiga** Stellantis says it will invest \$13 billion over the next four years to expand its manufacturing capacity in the United States, a move that the automaker says will increase its domestic vehicle production by 50% and add more than 5,000 jobs. The <u>world's fourth-largest carmaker</u> said Tuesday the investment will support the introduction of five new vehicles, including a Dodge Durango to be built in Detroit and a midsize truck to be assembled in Toledo, Ohio. The new jobs will be spread across plants in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. <u>Stellantis says it will invest \$13B to expand its US operations, adding more than 5,000 jobs I AP News</u>
- 10. **US** and Australia Sign Critical-Minerals Agreement President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese signed a critical-minerals deal at the White House on Monday as the U.S. eyes the continent's rich rare-earth resources at a time when China is imposing tougher rules on exporting its own critical minerals abroad. The two leaders described the agreement as an \$8.5 billion deal between the allies. Trump said it had been negotiated over several months. Earlier this month, Beijing announced that it will require foreign companies to get approval from the Chinese government to export magnets containing even trace amounts of rare-earth materials that originated from China or were produced with Chinese technology. The Trump administration says this gives China broad power over the global economy by controlling the tech supply chain. <u>US and Australia Sign Critical-Minerals Agreement electrifiED</u>
- 11. **NEMA Make It American™ Certification Program** NEMA Make It American™ Certification helps demonstrate your company's commitment to domestic content standards and streamline federal compliance efforts. This third-party audit certifies your supply chain evaluation process, ensuring you offer products that meet BABA requirements. <u>Learn more about the program and start your journey to certification</u>.
- 12. **PG&E Unveils \$73 Billion Spending Plan to Meet Surging Data** Center Energy Demand -PG&E plans to invest \$73 billion by 2030 to upgrade transmission infrastructure to accommodate a surge in electricity demand from data centers. The utility is working to serve 10 gigawatts of new demand over the next decade, driven by Al and other technologies. The plan also includes nearly 700 miles of underground power lines and 500 miles of wildfire safety upgrades. PG&E unveils \$73 billion spending plan to meet surging data-center energy demand | Reuters
- 13. **Google Announces \$15B Investment in AI Hub in India by Rajesh Roy** Google announced on Tuesday that it will invest \$15 billion in India over the next five years to establish its first artificial intelligence hub in the country. Located in the southern city of Visakhapatnam, the hub will be one of Google's largest globally. It will feature gigawatt-scale data center operations, extensive energy infrastructure, and an expanded fiber-optic network, the company said in a statement. The investment underscores Google's growing reliance on India as a key technology and talent base in the global race for AI dominance. For India, it brings in high-value infrastructure and foreign investment at a scale that can accelerate its digital transformation ambitions. Google Announces \$15B Investment in AI Hub in India electrifiED
- 14. **Google Invests \$9B to Expand AI Infrastructure in South Carolina** Google is announcing a new \$9 billion investment in South Carolina through 2027. This funding will expand Google's Berkeley County data center campus and support the continued construction of two new sites in Dorchester County, strengthening the state's role as a critical hub for American infrastructure. As we deepen our roots in the Palmetto State, we're creating new jobs, helping to power the state's digital economy for years to come, and advancing the U.S. as a world leader in AI innovation. Google Invests \$9B to Expand AI Infrastructure in South Carolina electrifiED



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NOV 2025

- 15. Consortium Acquires Aligned Data Centers in \$40B Deal by Michelle Chapman A group including BlackRock, Nvidia, and Microsoft is buying Aligned Data Centers in an approximately \$40 billion deal in an effort to expand next-generation cloud and artificial intelligence infrastructure. The acquisition comes amid a flurry of deals in recent months involving top Al developers that are flooding the booming Al sector with resources and money, and addressing resources such as electricity and infrastructure needed to support such technology. Last month, OpenAl and Nvidia announced a \$100 billion partnership that will add at least 10 gigawatts of data center computing power. Consortium Acquires Aligned Data Centers in \$40B Deal electrified
- 16. **Nvidia and Fujitsu Agree to Work Together on Al Robots and Other Technology** U.S. technology company Nvidia and Fujitsu, a Japanese telecommunications and computer maker, agreed to work together on artificial intelligence to deliver smart robots and a variety of other innovations using Nvidia's computer chips. The companies will work together on building what they called "an Al infrastructure," or the system on which the various futuristic Al uses will be based, including health care, manufacturing, the environment, next-generation computing and customer services. Nvidia and Japan's Fujitsu to collaborate on Al robots and other technology I AP News
- 17. **Nichia and ams OSRAM Sign Broad Patent Cross-License Agreement** Nichia and ams OSRAM have expanded their long-standing collaboration in the field of intellectual property (IP). The agreement grants both companies mutual access to each other's patents for nitride LED and laser components and, for the first time, also covers sophisticated LED packages and LED modules, such as matrix headlamps. The move aims to strengthen the industry- leading IP protection both companies offer to their customers. [News] Nichia and ams OSRAM Sign Broad Patent Cross-License Agreement LEDinside

18. Orion Announces Three-Year Renewal of LED Lighting Preventative Maintenance Contract Valued at \$42M-\$45M

- The partnership involves the maintenance of LED lighting systems at approximately 2,050 locations nationwide. The three-year renewal of Orion as the maintenance provider by this Fortune 100 enterprise customer was earned by Orion's multi-year success in organizing, managing and communicating large-scale projects involving multiple vendors across all 50 states. The customer said that its partnership with Orion served to achieve substantial reductions in overhead dedicated to maintaining its lighting systems. Orion's proactive maintenance program and prompt response to maintenance requests has ensured minimal disruptions to store operations and provides a seamless lighting experience for this major retailer's customers. (MY OPINION IS THAT THE RETAILER IS HOME DEPOT) https://www.ledinside.com/news/2025/10/2025 10 22 03

Industry Resources

- 19. **Embracing Modern Software Development Practices in the Al Era** The whitepaper reveals how organizations can transform their software development practices to meet today's demanding business requirements while ensuring security and quality. Key findings include:
 - 87% of developers using GenAl reported increased focus on meaningful work
 - · Organizations face significant challenges in monitoring security across growing attack surfaces
 - Modern software development requires new skills in infrastructure operations (59%), cloud migration (54%), and cybersecurity (52%)

Download to learn:

- How to implement the four pillars of modern software development.
- · Strategies for successful adoption of modern software practices.
- · Ways to balance innovation with security and governance.
- Best practices for integrating Al into development processes.

Harvard Business Review Analytic Services - DevOps Whitepaper





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NOV 2025

20. Webinar: Al and Ecommerce: The Future for Electrical Distributors - Discover how Al is transforming electrical distribution—from customer insights to ecommerce efficiency—in this exclusive webinar with industry leaders from DDS and ECI. Oct. 22, 2025 11:00am ET Duration: 1 hour In this webinar, Matt Christensen, President & Co-founder of DDS, and Chris Fisher, VP of Global Ecommerce at ECI, will share how both organizations are introducing new Al-powered solutions designed to help distributors:

- · Gain actionable insights into customer behavior and buying patterns.
- Improve and optimize the product content that fuels online sales.
- Streamline ecommerce management to free up valuable resources.
- · Strengthen digital marketing, SEO, and customer engagement.

Al and Ecommerce: The Future for Electrical Distributors | Electrical Wholesaling

21. **Agentic Al Can Transform Manufacturing, Deloitte Report Finds by Cary Gitter** - Agentic Al refers to autonomous generative Al agents that possess "agency"—the ability to both act and choose actions to take—which enables them to independently complete complex tasks and achieve human-defined objectives with minimal or no supervision. Multiagent systems consist of multiple Al agents completing specific objectives and collaborating to accomplish sophisticated workflows. Agentic artificial intelligence (Al) has the potential to transform the manufacturing industry in the coming years, according to a new report released by Deloitte in September. Powered by large language models, autonomous generative-Al agents with the "agency" to work independently alongside people could be used to support multiple aspects of companies' operations. In general, due to its ability to act autonomously, agentic Al can be an important new tool to help manage the complexity that manufacturers can face throughout the organization. It may also serve as an important building block for the future of automation in the industry, including robotics achieving increasing degrees of agency, or workers having enhanced access to process and equipment trend information on industrial tablets as agentic Al helps to break down data silos. Agentic Al Can Transform Manufacturing, Deloitte Report Says I Manufacturing News Desk I advancedmanufacturing.org

Articles of Interest

22. Teching Up: The Future Is Here, and a Technologist Can Help You Embrace It by Jared Christman - Without someone on your team to evaluate, pilot and implement new software tools in real world conditions, you risk trading money for more confusion. Enter the construction technologist, a role rapidly moving from luxury to necessity in today's fast-paced electrical contracting industry. Enter the construction technologist, a role rapidly moving from luxury to necessity in today's fast-paced electrical contracting industry. Technologists help contractors navigate the sea of innovations, avoid costly missteps and align technology adoption with actual workflows on-site and in the office. There are several ways a technologist can contribute to your work.

- Tech scouting and filtering
- Process mapping
- Champion identification
- Testing and return on investment evaluation
- Implementation and training

Teching Up: The future is here, and a technologist can help you embrace it | Jared Christman - Electrical Contractor Magazine

23. Data is a New Currency for Electrical Contractor Operations by Jim Romeo - Construction runs on decisions, and better data helps to make better decisions. When field measurements, schedules, costs and submittals data converge, managerial confidence is strengthened. Foremen spot risks early, and managers spot problems before they occur. Real-time telemetry from equipment, automated progress capture and clean cost codes transform guesswork into measurable productivity. The payoff is fewer delays, tighter change control, safer sites and predictable closeout—turning data into days saved and margins protected. Wipfli, a national accounting and business consulting firm, published a 2025 State of Technology in Construction report, which surveyed 308 executives. It shows there is an appetite for technology and the data it yields. Firms that turn field data into shared insight—securely and in real time—will move from tools to tangible labor savings, safer job sites and faster closeout. What does this mean for projects and job site management? Data is a New Currency for Electrical Contractor Operations - Electrical Contractor Magazine



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM AMERLUX®

NOV 2025

24. Amazon Testing New Warehouse Robots and Al Tools for Workers By Sean McLain - Artificial intelligence that makes humans more efficient and robots that make them less necessary. The retail giant unveiled a trio of new technologies Wednesday that it is testing or preparing to deploy in its warehouses and delivery vans. They include a robot arm called Blue Jay, designed to sort packages; an artificial-intelligence agent called Eluna, intended to help human managers deploy workers and avoid bottlenecks; and augmented-reality glasses to be worn by delivery drivers in the field. Analysts expect Amazon to see billions of dollars in cost savings every year as it automates more of the logistics process, both through increased efficiency and reduced need for humans. Amazon says its goal is to improve safety and unload mundane tasks onto Al and robots. Amazon Testing New Warehouse Robots and Al Tools for Workers - WSJ m.wsj.net/video-atmo/20250627/f50aec12-b610-4104-805f-27966da3fb05/1/amazonrobotsbleed1 1000.mp4

Monthly Feature

Neurosymbolic Al: A Strategy for Growth, Not Just a Product by Mitch Berlin and Jeff Schumacher - Neurosymbolic Al fuses statistical Al (pattern recognition) with symbolic Al (logic, rules, and causal structures). The outcome is predictive, auditable, adaptive and scalable reasoning that not only forecasts outcomes, but also explains why and prescribes how to act. NSAl is a fundamental shift in growth strategy, helping CEOs see around the corner to find opportunities their competitors don't see. How can CEOs find the exponential growth opportunities that their competitors don't see in a world where hundreds of millions of data points can send mixed signals? And how can they develop the strategy to scale these opportunities at hyper speed? Neurosymbolic Al (NSAI) can be that game changer. However, most executives today are not aware of Neuro-symbolic Al (NSAI) as an emerging Al technology, nor of the role that it came to play in growth. Those that do hear about NSAI may easily mischaracterize it as another technology initiative. This is a categorical mistake. NSAI is not about phasing in a new tool; it is about transforming the commercial model. NSAI provides a strategic lens that reshapes how enterprises perceive, unlock and sustain growth.

- Neurosymbolic AI can help companies transform their commercial model by identifying hidden growth opportunities.
- It can help companies develop tailored strategies for forecasting, pricing, new products, M&A and more.
- EY Growth Platforms is working with companies across industries to harness the power of neurosymbolic Al.

Custom workflows embedded in an enterprise environment continuously identify and surface real-time opportunities for profitable growth. Neurosymbolic Al: A strategy for growth, not just a product | EY - US



