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## LED Track Lighting that makes you feel at home

Slots & Dots, a 48V Track lighting system, connects all the dots for architects and lighting designers: color, comfort, controls and configurability.

### Hospitality

With the right light, any place will feel like home. At Amerlux, we design lighting to delight your customers, instantly taking them from anticipation to enjoyment. Our elegant solutions fill your spaces with beautiful light that transforms both the simple dinner out and the fancy vacation into unforgettable customer experiences.

### Market Observer

#### 1. Cheyenne to Host Massive AI Data Center Using More Electricity than All Wyoming Homes Combined

- An artificial intelligence data center that would use more electricity than every home in Wyoming combined before expanding to as much as five times that size will be built soon near Cheyenne, according to the city's mayor. With cool weather — good for keeping computer temperatures down — and an abundance of inexpensive electricity from a top energy-producing state, Wyoming's capital has become a hub of computing power. The city has been home to Microsoft data centers since 2012. An \$800 million data center announced last year by Facebook parent company Meta Platforms is nearing completion. The latest data center, a joint effort between regional energy infrastructure company Tallgrass and AI data center developer Crusoe, would begin at 1.8 gigawatts of electricity and be scalable to 10 gigawatts. A gigawatt can power as many as 1 million homes. But that's more homes than Wyoming has people. The least populated state, Wyoming, has about 590,000 people. But this proposed data center is so big, it would have its own dedicated energy from gas generation and renewable sources. [Cheyenne to host massive AI data center using more electricity than all Wyoming homes combined | AP News](#)



2. **The Digital Backbone of Tomorrow's Grid** - The global energy grid faces aging infrastructure, rising renewable integration, and decentralization challenges. AI emerges as a vital tool to optimize capacity, predict failures, and enhance resilience, ensuring a reliable power supply amid growing demand and environmental risks. AI is becoming a crucial tool for utilities to modernize the energy grid, addressing challenges such as aging infrastructure, renewable integration and decentralization. AI enables predictive maintenance, reducing outages by up to 30%, and enhances grid capacity through dynamic line rating. Utilities such as PG&E and Tata Power are already using AI to manage peak demand and improve reliability. [The Digital Backbone of Tomorrow's Grid | T&D World](#)

3. **LEDucation 2026 Call for Speakers – You missed the deadline for Submissions. It was September 15, 2025.** LEDucation's 2026 Conference, is taking place April 14–15 at the New York Hilton Midtown in New York City. Virtual sessions will be held the week prior to the in-person event. LEDucation provides insightful presentations, panel discussions, practical case studies, and addresses topics exploring emerging issues. The Conference will highlight the latest technologies, regulatory updates, essential issues, and lighting trends. Sessions are AIA CES–approved with many carrying AIA HSW approval as well. This Educational Conference draws expert lighting and architectural professionals along with those who are new to the industry—many seeking CEUs. [Call for Speakers – LEDucation](#)

**4. US Economy Expands at Surprising Pace in Second Quarter** - An uptick in consumer spending helped the U.S. economy expand at a surprising 3.8% from April through June, the government reported in a dramatic upgrade of its previous estimate of second-quarter growth. The department had previously estimated second-quarter growth at 3.3%, and forecasters had expected a repeat of that figure. A category within the GDP data that measures the economy's underlying strength came in stronger than previously reported as well, growing 2.9% from April-June, up from 1.9% in the first quarter. [US Economy Expands at Surprising Pace in Second Quarter - tEDmag](#)

**5. US Supreme Court to Hear Trump's Tariffs Case on November 5 by Andrew Chung** - The Supreme Court will hear arguments Nov. 5 on the legality of President Donald Trump's tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. The case arises after lower courts found that Trump exceeded his powers under a federal law typically reserved for emergencies. The ruling could have significant implications for US trade policy and the limits of presidential authority. US Supreme Court to hear Trump's tariffs case on November 5 | Reuters

**6. NAED Backs NEMA Tariff Incentive Proposal** - Electrical equipment and grid components are the backbone of America's energy, manufacturing, grid, and AI dominance priorities. To power growing demand for electricity, industrial capacity, and data centers, more of this infrastructure must be produced here at home. NEMA's tariff incentive framework introduces a three-pronged approach to targeted, time-limited tariff incentives that support the Trump Administration's industrial policy and energy objectives:

- 1) **Capital Investment in U.S. Manufacturing Incentive:** A tariff offset equal to any capital investments made to build or expand a domestic manufacturing facility, available for up to three years after the facility is operational.
- 2) **Grid Infrastructure Incentive:** A tariff offset for goods or raw materials used to build or operate our power infrastructure essential to global competitiveness, including but not limited to substations, on-site generation, distribution equipment, and data centers.
- 3) **Domestic Manufacturing Incentive:** A tariff offset for manufactured goods that meet federal domestic content requirements.

NAED applauds NEMA's innovative approach to incentivizing domestic manufacturing and grid expansion. To read NEMA's tariff incentive proposal, click here. [NAED Backs NEMA Incentive Proposal - tEDmag](#)

**7. Wesco's Scholarships Support More than 100 Apprentices through NECA/ELECTRI's Project Management Program** - Wesco International announced that more than 100 apprentices will graduate next month through the NECA/ELECTRI Project Management Apprenticeship, supported by the Wesco Cares scholarship program. Wesco executives will be onsite at the annual NECA Convention held in Chicago, IL, Sept.12-15, to discuss its strong partnership with ELECTRI International and the success of the scholarship program to date. The scholarship program launched in 2024 aims to address labor shortages and cultivate future industry leaders. [Wesco's Scholarships Support More than 100 Apprentices through NECA/ELECTRI's Project Management Program | Electrical Wholesaling](#)

**8. Trump's Team Explores Government-Backed Manufacturing Boost** - President Trump's team is weighing a plan to spur the construction of factories and other infrastructure in a bid to jump-start the American manufacturing sector, according to documents and people familiar with the discussions. Under the plan, the administration would use money from [a \\$550 billion investment fund](#) established as part of trade negotiations with Japan to invest in the development of semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, energy, ships and quantum computing. Some of the projects would be granted preferential treatment from the government, including expedited regulatory review. The administration is considering granting leases to companies that would give them access to federal land and water. [Trump's Team Explores Government-Backed Manufacturing Boost - WSJ](#)

9. **US and UK Sign Science and Technology Agreement** - On September 18, 2025, President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Keir Starmer signed the [Technology Prosperity Deal](#), a landmark science and technology agreement that will propel the U.S. – UK special relationship to new heights for the technological age and deliver wins for the American people and American innovation globally. The Technology Prosperity Deal establishes joint initiatives between the two nations' premiere research and standards institutions across artificial intelligence, nuclear energy, and quantum computing to bring transformative benefits to citizens – from accelerating breakthroughs in health care, to lowering energy costs, and supporting national security. [US and UK Sign Science and Technology Agreement – electrified](#)

10. **Hitachi to Invest \$1 Billion to Produce Power Grid Components in US by Laila Kearney** - Hitachi plans to invest \$1 billion to expand its U.S. power grid infrastructure manufacturing, its energy unit said on Thursday, as the country faces record electricity demand from Big Tech's build-out of AI data centers. The U.S. holds the biggest concentration in the world of data centers, which are expected to triple their energy use to consume about 12% of the domestic power supply in less than three years. As a result, many utilities are ramping up spending on the long-stagnating electrical grid. Nearly half of Hitachi Energy's latest investment, or \$457 million, will go towards building a new facility in South Boston, Virginia, to manufacture large power transformers. The facility will be the biggest U.S. producer of the massive transformers, which can run as large as a two-story home, Hitachi said. [Hitachi to invest \\$1 billion to produce power grid components in US | Reuters](#)

11. **Hyundai Says It Will Spend \$2.7 Billion Expanding Part of the Georgia Complex Raided by ICE** - Hyundai Motor Group confirmed it is going forward with previously announced plans to expand its Georgia plant, just weeks after an immigration raid delayed the startup of an electric vehicle battery plant at the site. As part of a broader investment strategy, Hyundai said it would spend \$2.7 billion to increase production capacity at the Ellabell, Georgia site by 200,000 over the next three years, to a total of 500,000 vehicles a year. Hyundai said that it plans to make more than 80% of vehicles sold in the United States domestically by 2030, with total domestic content increasing from 60% to 80%. Hyundai pledges to hire at least 8,500 workers by the end of 2031. [Hyundai to expand Georgia plant despite ICE raid | AP News](#)

12. **ABB to Invest Additional \$110M in US Manufacturing** - ABB announced today that it will invest a further \$110 million in the United States in 2025 to expand the R&D and manufacturing of its advanced electrification solutions as customers focus on improving energy efficiency and uptime while reducing their energy costs and will create nearly 200 new jobs. ABB will invest \$15 million to create a new production line for Emax 3 in its Senatobia, Mississippi site. A \$30 million project will double the footprint of ABB's Richmond, Virginia facility adding a new test center, warehouse and new assembly lines. In Arecibo, Puerto Rico, an investment of more than \$30 million will increase the size of the facility to accommodate three new production lines. A \$35 million investment will increase the capacity of ABB's manufacturing facility in Pinetops, North Carolina. From 2022-2024, ABB invested around \$500 million in its US business. ABB has a presence in all 50 states. Today, approximately 75-80% of the revenues ABB generates in the US are from products manufactured in the US. [ABB to Invest \\$110M in US Manufacturing – tEDmag](#)

13. **TikTok's Algorithm to Be Licensed to US Joint Venture Led by Oracle and Silver Lake** - Tech giant Oracle will spearhead U.S. oversight of the algorithm and security underlying TikTok's popular video platform under the terms of a deal laid out this week by President Donald Trump's administration. All the final details still need to be nailed down among several joint venture partners that will include Oracle, investment firm Silver Lake Partners and possibly two billionaires — media mogul Rupert Murdoch and personal computer pioneer Michael Dell. Although he no longer runs Oracle as its CEO, company co-founder Larry Ellison remains a top executive while also overseeing an estimated personal fortune of \$390 billion. Ellison, 81, now could be in line to become a behind-the-scenes power player in the media, having already helped finance [Skydance's recently completed \\$8 billion merger with Paramount](#), a deal engineered by his son, David. The U.S. administration would not have a stake in the joint venture nor be part of its board, according to a senior White House official. [Oracle will manage TikTok algorithm for US users under Trump deal | AP News](#)

14. **MLB Will Use Robot Umpires in 2026** - Robot umpires are getting called up to the big leagues next season. Major League Baseball's 11-man competition committee on Tuesday approved use of the Automated Ball/Strike System in the major leagues in 2026. Human plate umpires will still call balls and strikes, but teams can challenge two calls per game and get additional appeals in extra innings. Challenges must be made by a pitcher, catcher or batter — signaled by tapping their helmet or cap — and a team retains its challenge if successful. Reviews will be shown as digital graphics on outfield videoboards. [Robot umpires approved for MLB in 2026 as part of challenge system | AP News](#)



15. **Nvidia to Invest \$100 Billion in OpenAI to Help Expand the ChatGPT Maker's Computing Power** - Chipmaker [Nvidia](#) will invest \$100 billion in [OpenAI](#) as part of a partnership announced Monday that will add at least 10 gigawatts of Nvidia AI data centers to ramp up the computing power for the owner of the artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT. Per the letter of intent signed by the companies, the first gigawatt of Nvidia systems will be deployed in the second half of 2026. Nvidia and OpenAI said they would be finalizing the details of the arrangement in the coming weeks. The Nvidia-OpenAI partnership also comes about 10 days after OpenAI said it had reached a [new tentative agreement](#) that will give Microsoft a \$100 billion equity stake in its for-profit corporation. OpenAI is [technically controlled by its nonprofit](#). [OpenAI says it has 700 million weekly active users](#). [Nvidia to invest \\$100 billion in OpenAI to help expand ChatGPT maker's computing power | AP News](#)

16. **Nuclear Power Could Be a \$10 Trillion Industry That 'Holds the Answer to the World's Power Shortages'** - Nuclear energy represents a [\\$10 trillion potential market opportunity](#) that could hold "the answer to the world's power shortages," according to a new report from Bank of America. To meet the growing demand for global electrification stoked by energy-intensive projects like the data centers underpinning the AI arms race, global nuclear capacity will have to triple by 2050, the firm estimated. Investment is expected to reach more than \$3 trillion in the next 25 years. Small Modular Reactors, or SMRs are typically designed to produce around 500 megawatts or less of energy compared to a traditional nuclear power plant's 1,000 MW or more. Unlike traditional nuclear power plants that may take years — if not decades — to bring online, SMRs are cheaper and faster to build, with "modular" parts that can be mass-produced and slotted together on an assembly line. [Nuclear power could be a \\$10 trillion industry that 'holds the answer to the world's power shortages'](#)

17. **Energy Audits Need a Digital Upgrade** - Traditional audits still have merit, but often they miss live inefficiencies. Artificial Intelligence tools reduce human error and generate immediate insights that could mean measurable savings. Automation is not new to manufacturing but the scope of the technology is leading to novel applications as industry leaders rethink energy management. Traditional audits still have merit, but often they miss the live inefficiencies that persist in production systems. Artificial Intelligence tools reduce human error and generate immediate insights that could result in measurable savings for those systems. [Can AI Help Conduct an Energy Audit and Find Savings Opportunities? | Enterprise Data | American Machinist](#)

18. **Amazon Spends \$1 Billion to Increase Pay and Lower Health Care Costs for US Workers** - Amazon has a global workforce of 1.5 million workers. The Seattle-based company said the average pay is increasing to more than \$23 per hour. Amazon also said it will lower the cost of its entry health care plan to \$5 per week and \$5 for co-pays, starting next year. In January 2024, Walmart, the nation's largest private employer, said that average wages for hourly workers would exceed \$18, up from \$17.50. At Minneapolis-based Target, the starting hourly wage ranges from \$15 to \$24 for workers employed at stores and distribution centers. [Amazon spends \\$1 billion to increase pay and lower health care costs for US workers | AP News](#)

## Industry Resources

19. **America's Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age** - President Trump has set a bold economic strategy to reindustrialize America, dominate the artificial intelligence (AI) frontier, and reclaim control over the levers of national prosperity. Achieving this vision requires a workforce system capable of propelling American workers into high-wage careers, upholding the dignity of hard work, and delivering the talent businesses need to power the nation's economic resurgence. This strategy lays out a comprehensive plan to address the workforce needs of American companies, integrate existing workforce development systems to maximize efficiency and effectiveness, provide accountability for workforce training programs, upskill incumbent American workers, and develop alternatives to 4-year college degrees. The goal is to build a durable system that expands our labor force, helps workers advance, supports employers in meeting their needs, and positions the country to lead in today's economy and to transform our national workforce investments to meet the talent needs of employers, empower more Americans to access high-wage careers, and reindustrialize the United States [America's Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age](#)

20. **Winning the Race AMERICA'S AI ACTION PLAN** - The United States is in a race to achieve global dominance in artificial intelligence (AI). Whoever has the largest AI ecosystem will set global AI standards and reap broad economic and military benefits. Winning the AI race will usher in a new golden age of human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security for the American people. AI will enable Americans to discover new materials, synthesize new chemicals, manufacture new drugs, and develop new methods to harness energy—an industrial revolution. It will enable radically new forms of education, media, and communication—an information revolution. And it will enable altogether new intellectual achievements: unraveling ancient scrolls once thought unreadable, making breakthroughs in scientific and mathematical theory, and creating new kinds of digital and physical art—a renaissance. America's AI Action Plan has three pillars: innovation, infrastructure, and international diplomacy and security. An industrial revolution, an information revolution, and a renaissance—all at once. [America's AI Action Plan](#)

21. **Wesco Cares Scholarship Program** - Wesco has partnered with Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) as well as ELECTRI International, an electrical construction foundation established by the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), to establish a new scholarship program for future electrical workers. The Wesco Cares Scholarship Program supports the next generation of tradespeople and fortifies our commitment to the electrical industry. The \$200,000 in scholarships will be awarded to qualified and deserving students entering skilled trades in the U.S. electrical industry. As the largest electrical distributor in North America, Wesco understands the critical role of tradespeople in powering our world and moving the electrical industry forward. Similarly, IEC and ELECTRI are tireless advocates of the electrical industry and are both committed to supporting the next generation of contractors. By helping to reduce the financial costs associated with trade school and apprenticeship expenses, the scholarship program will help encourage interest in the trades and contributes to an increase in skilled labor. [Wesco Cares | Scholarship Program | Wesco](#)

22. **Welcome to the Lighting Controls Academy** - In keeping with its alliance with NEMA and the NEMA Academy, the Lighting Controls Association is now the Lighting Controls Academy, a NEMA coalition. The LCA remains the leader in lighting controls education. Under the "Learn" tab, you can click the "Video Courses" button for a roster of free video courses that will be dramatically expanded over the next year. Under the "NEMA Academy" tab, you can access our Education Express courses that are registered for education credit. The new platform includes an enhanced website, comprehensive learning experience, and access to a broad and growing curriculum covering lighting controls in addition to other topics and categories such as lighting. [Learn About Controls](#)



### Articles of Interest

**23. These AI-Skilled 20-Somethings Are Making Hundreds of Thousands a Year** - It's a tough time to be a young person looking for a job—unless you're in artificial intelligence. While AI is part of the [reason for the doldrums](#), there is a bright spot when it comes to workers with actual experience in machine learning. They're in their early 20s, they have AI know-how, and a bunch of them are making \$1 million a year. Base salaries for nonmanagerial workers in AI with zero to three years experience grew by around 12% from 2024 to 2025, the largest gain of any experience group, according to a new report by the AI staffing firm Burtch Works, which analyzed the compensation of thousands of AI and data-science candidates. The report also found that people with AI experience are being promoted to management roles roughly twice as fast as their counterparts in other technology fields. They're jumping the ladder as a result of their skills and impact instead of their years on the job. [These AI-Skilled 20-Somethings Are Making Hundreds of Thousands a Year - WSJ](#)

**24. DOE Launches Speed to Power Initiative to Accelerate Grid Infrastructure Development** - The U.S. Department of Energy's Speed to Power initiative aims to fast-track large-scale transmission and generation projects to meet rising energy needs, support AI and data centers, and ensure grid reliability by 2030. The DOE has introduced the Speed to Power initiative, aimed at expediting the development of large-scale grid infrastructure projects for both transmission and generation. The program is intended to help meet rising energy demand while supporting the growth of artificial intelligence (AI) and data centers. As part of the launch, DOE is issuing a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input on large-scale transmission and generation projects. The agency is asking for feedback on near-term investment opportunities, project readiness, expected load growth, and infrastructure constraints. Responses due November 21, 2025 <https://www.energy.gov/speed-to-power> The goal is to determine how DOE funding programs and authorities can be applied to accelerate grid capacity expansion. [DOE Launches Speed to Power Initiative to Accelerate Grid Infrastructure Development | T&D World](#)

### Monthly Feature

Entering the Nuclear Renaissance: Policy and Domestic Fuel Cycles by Andrew Shaw and Anouk Nouet - The global push toward nuclear energy expansion is driven by policy reforms, technological advancements like SMRs, and commitments from tech giants to support AI infrastructure, aiming to triple nuclear capacity by 2050. The nuclear sector stands on the cusp of a significant transformation driven by policy advancements and expanding market dynamics. Governments, industry players, and technology companies are aligning their efforts to accelerate the deployment of innovative nuclear solutions, aiming to address climate concerns, ensure energy security, and meet the growing demand for reliable power to support the transformation to [artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#). Prominent tech firms are actively engaging in the next-generation reactor market, including small modular reactors (SMR), recognizing the potential of nuclear energy for sustainable development.



- Major tech companies like Amazon and Microsoft are investing in SMRs and nuclear power purchase agreements to support AI data centers and enhance energy resilience.
- U.S. policies, including the ADVANCE Act and executive orders, aim to quadruple nuclear capacity by 2050, streamline licensing, and promote advanced reactor technologies.
- Over 300 nuclear bills have been introduced across 25 states, with initiatives focusing on incentives, workforce development, and regulatory reforms to boost nuclear energy adoption.
- The U.S. is actively working to rebuild its domestic fuel cycle, including banning Russian uranium imports and supporting local production of LEU and HALEU for small modular reactors.
- Strategic partnerships, such as Westinghouse with Google Cloud, leverage AI to improve reactor construction and operations, exemplifying industry innovation.

[Entering the Nuclear Renaissance: Policy and Domestic Fuel Cycles | EnergyTech](#)