



[Signature LEDs – Amerlux – Commercial Interior Lighting Products](#)

Hornet 2.5" Family

Hornet 2.5 - the lighting solution that sets a new standard in comfort and performance. With its unique design, the Hornet 2.5 features a deep bevel and low-intensity flashing that provides an unparalleled level of comfort without compromising on performance. Hornet 2.5 is not only comfortable, but it's also incredibly energy-efficient. With efficacy above 100 lm/W, the Hornet 2.5 meets modern energy-saving goals and delivers the highest efficacy possible, thanks to its new generation LED technology and optical package. Despite its compact size, the Hornet 2.5 comes with a standard integral driver, making it fully serviceable from below. It offers adjustable and wall wash options, as well as trimless and millwork options, making it a versatile solution that can fit any space or design.

Features & Benefits

- **Maximum Comfort Standard** - Deep regress trim and converging beam optics for exceptional visual comfort, without compromising output.
- **Go Beyond Conventional** - Unique adjustment capability using innovative simple Tilt & Shift motion.
- **Design Light with Precision** - Super narrow spot beam, 40° tilt, perfect for highlighting art, displays, and focal points.
- **Maximize Impact, Minimize Spill** - Clean trim aesthetic, delivering comfortable even wall washing with no back glare.

Market Observer

1. **NEMA Supports Securing U.S. Power Grid and Strengthening Domestic Manufacturing** - NEMA supports measures that ensure our nation's electric grid is secure, reliable, and resilient, particularly as demand for electricity continues to grow. In response to President Trump's Bulk Power Executive Order 14420, NEMA leadership looks forward to working with the Administration to ensure the shared vision of a secure, reliable grid that delivers affordable electricity for Americans is realized, while balancing the near-term need to expand energy generation, transmission, distribution, storage, and efficiency. The U.S. electrical manufacturing industry has invested more than \$200 billion in domestic production since 2018, advancing manufacturing of components critical to our national security, economic growth, and energy future. The Executive Order's emphasis on American-made energy infrastructure also reinforces the importance of industry-led programs like NEMA's Make It American® program, which helps manufacturers demonstrate and verify their commitment to producing electrical products in the U.S. based on the current Build America, Buy America Act. NAED supports the goal of securing America's power grid from proliferating threats and supplychain vulnerabilities. We look forward to working with the Trump Administration as it develops the rules needed to implement the order. [NEMA Supports Securing U.S. Power Grid and Strengthening Domestic Manufacturing - NEMA](#)

2. **August Jobs Report Shows US Added 162,000 Jobs, Blowing Past Forecasts by Mary Cunningham** - U.S. employers added 162,000 jobs in August, more than double economists' forecasts and signaling a sharp acceleration from hiring in July. The unemployment rate was 4.1% in August, unchanged from the previous month. The August jobs report could strengthen the case for a Federal Reserve interest rate hike at the central bank's upcoming meeting, with the rate decision set for Sept. 16, economists said on Friday. However, the Fed is likely to place more emphasis on the forthcoming Consumer Price Index report, which will be released on Sept. 11. Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh affirmed that the labor market was on a steady course last week during the Fed's annual conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Warsh signaled that inflation, which is stubbornly above the Fed's 2% target, remains the central bank's primary focus. [August jobs report shows US added 162,000 jobs, blowing past forecasts](#)

3. **Chevron Expands Oil Position in Venezuela** - The agreements set out provisions for Chevron's joint ventures in Venezuela, including enhanced fiscal, commercial and legal terms intended to support durable and competitive long-term investments. As part of the agreements, Chevron has been assigned additional acreage in the Orinoco Belt, where the company has an established position. The enhancements underpin joint venture plans to invest over \$7 billion over the next five years, more than doubling production to approximately 600,000 barrels a day compared to 2026. With total costs of less than \$20 per barrel and a large resource base, Venezuela is a platform of differentiated oil growth under Chevron's disciplined cash management model.

[Business News Today – tEDmag](#)

4. **Walmart Celebrates Major Milestone with 100 EV Fast-Charging Sites Nationwide** - Walmart has reached a significant milestone by opening its 100th EV fast-charging site, enhancing accessibility for electric vehicle drivers across 20 states with fast, reliable charging options at their stores. Most Walmart EV charging locations feature 8 to 16 fast-charging stalls, with chargers capable of delivering up to 400 kW of power. [Walmart Celebrates Major Milestone with 100 EV Fast-Charging Sites Nationwide | EO&M](#)

5. **Oregon's Popular Electric Vehicles Rebates are Back, But for a Limited Time Only** - Oregonians shopping for an electric vehicle can once again get thousands of dollars from the state toward the cost, but they'll have little more than two months to do so, through Nov. 4. Clean Vehicle Rebate Program The standard rebate is available regardless of income to Oregon residents, businesses, nonprofits and government agencies. It offers \$2,000 for a new all-electric vehicle, \$1,500 for a new plug-in hybrid and \$375 for a new zero-emission motorcycle. The "charge ahead" rebate offers more money to lower- and moderate-income households. To qualify, a household must earn no more than 400% of the federal poverty guideline — about \$63,840 for an individual or \$132,000 for a family of four in 2026. They can receive \$7,500 for a new battery-electric vehicle or \$5,000 for a new plug-in hybrid. [Oregon EV rebate program is back. Who qualifies and how much you can get - oregonlive.com](#)

6. **DOE Releases 2026 U.S. Energy and Employment Report** – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has released the 2026 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER). The annual report highlights strong job growth across critical energy sectors at the heart of President Trump's Energy Dominance agenda. America's most reliable energy sectors are adding jobs and powering industries across the country. These critical sectors deliver the affordable, reliable, and secure energy that American families, businesses, and industries depend on. [DOE Releases 2026 U.S. Energy and Employment Report – tEDmag](#)

7. **Canada Announces Counter-Tariffs Against the United States** - Canada's retaliatory tariffs against the United States' tariffs on August 22 took effect at 12:01 a.m. today, covering approximately \$27.6 billion of U.S.-origin goods at rates of 15%, 25%, or 50%. The measures apply only to goods originating in the United States; U.S. goods already in transit to Canada today are exempt. Among the electrical-related items (see the full list for specific exclusions and details):

- **Copper wire:** multiple refined-copper wire classifications carry a 50% tariff.
- **Aluminum wire:** multiple aluminum and aluminum-alloy wire classifications carry a 50% tariff.
- **Aluminum stranded wire and cable that is not electrically insulated**, including steel-core conductor, carries a 50% tariff.
- **Other insulated electric conductors rated at 1,000 V or less** under tariff item 8544.49.00 carry a 25% tariff.
- **LED ceiling and wall luminaires**, plus certain other LED luminaires, carry a 50% tariff.

[Canada Announces Counter-Tariffs Against the United States – tEDmag](#)

8. **9/11 - We Remember** - One of the most mind-blowing memories of the 9-11 tragedies is the selfless sense of duty of the rescue workers who responded to the World Trade Center disaster. Hundreds of fire-fighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) risked their own lives in hopes of saving others. Their heroics on that day have been well-documented over the past few months. But five months after the disaster, the disappointment still lingers for many of them that they didn't save more people. [9/11 - We Remember | Electrical Wholesaling](#)

9. Supporters Hopeful as DOE and EPA Finalize Energy Star Transition Plan by Robert Freedman - The U.S. Department of Energy's success with its Better Buildings Initiative shows the agency knows how to make a public-private partnership like Energy Star work, an industry supporter says. The U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Aug. 28 finalized a plan to make DOE the lead agency on the federal government's Energy Star program by this time next year. In what industry groups say is an encouraging sign, the document emphasizes the agencies' commitment to ensuring the program has adequate funding and staffing, a concern since the Trump administration has tried cutting the program in its budget requests. [Supporters hopeful as DOE and EPA finalize Energy Star transition plan | Facilities Dive](#)

10. Congress Pushed to Act Now to Stop Looming Crisis for America's Electric Grid by Kerry Pickett - America's electrical grid is hurtling toward a crisis point, according to the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. The association projects that U.S. electricity demand will surge 55% by 2050, driven largely by the explosive growth of artificial intelligence and data centers. To bolster the electric grid, NEMA is pushing for Congress to pass the Senate's STRONG Grid Act and Rewiring America Act and the House's High-Capacity Grid Act. [Congress pushed to act now to stop looming crisis for America's electric grid](#)

11. Trump Guts Climate Rules for Coal and Gas Power Plants by Rachel Frazin - The Trump administration on Monday gutted regulations that limited planet-warming emissions from coal- and gas-fired power plants. Monday's move could be slightly different. While it is expected to repeal large swaths of Biden-era power plant regulations, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assistant administrator Aaron Szabo told reporters that limited pieces of Biden- and Obama-era regs would remain in place. In addition to Monday's final rule, the EPA proposed to find that the Clean Air Act does not give it the authority to regulate power plant emissions due to their climate impacts. If finalized, Szabo said that this move could block future administrations from regulating power plants' climate emissions. [Trump EPA guts power plant emission rules](#)

12. Toyota Expects Factory Automation to Cost \$6.4 Billion - Toyota Motor estimates it could cost \$6.4 billion every year from 2028 to modernize its factories worldwide, including the use of automation and robotics. The world's biggest carmaker told investors it wants around 400,000 robots in its factories as a way to address the company's aging infrastructure. Many of those robots will replace existing robots. Toyota did not specifically announce when the investments or changes would begin. Other carmakers are reportedly looking into similar investments to upgrade factory output. [Business News Today - tEDmag](#)

13. Elon Musk Predicts 3 Huge Milestones for the Next Decade by Mike Crisolago - Elon Musk is known for his visions of the future — even if most don't come true. Nevertheless, such predictions, made by the world's richest man — who controls some of the world's biggest tech companies — at the very least allow observers to imagine that a future once confined to the realms of sci-fi fantasy could actually be within reach. On Tuesday's earnings call, these three predictions stood out from the rest:

1. **SpaceX would deliver \$1 trillion in revenue by 2030:** No company has ever recorded a trillion dollars in revenue in a year, but Musk believes SpaceX could hit that mark sooner than even he'd projected.
2. **Starlink will provide the majority of the world's internet in less than a decade:** This is a bold prediction given the world boasts around six billion internet users and Starlink's current subscriber base of 12 million represents about 0.2% of them.
3. **SpaceX could build a manufacturing hub on the moon:** Perhaps the boldest of Musk's predictions is his desire to use robots "to scale up manufacturing on the moon" to build factories, a mass accelerator and enable solar and radiator production. This is the prediction he referred to as sounding "super sci-fi right now" while reiterating that "it will happen with boots on the moon in 2028."

[Elon Musk predicts 3 huge milestones for the next decade: 'It sounds super sci-fi but it's going to happen'](#)

14. Hitachi Energy to Invest \$528 Million in New Transformer Factory in Mississippi by Laila Kearney And Kaori Kaneko -

Hitachi Energy plans to build a \$528 million factory in Mississippi to produce electrical transformers, marking the single-biggest investment the company has made as part of its U.S. manufacturing expansion. The country's record-high power demand - driven by the proliferation of the technology industry's giant data centers and the electrification of buildings and transportation - has butted up against a lack of critical electrical infrastructure like transformers and circuit breakers. The Gallman, Mississippi, plant, which is expected to start operations in 2029, will be roughly double the size of Hitachi Energy's existing Crystal Springs facility in the state. The Gallman plant will produce the mid-range transformers that are used in data center projects, semi-conductor plants and other industrial operations with large power needs. Hitachi's new Mississippi investment will complete the \$1.5 billion the company is spending to boost its production capacity in the U.S. [Hitachi Energy to invest \\$528 million in new transformer factory in Mississippi](#)

15. Montreal Manufacturer Explores a Move to the U.S. as Tariff War Escalates - A recent survey found four in 10 Canadian manufacturers have either made the move or are considering it. Canada's retaliatory tariffs were the tipping point for Aeris Protective Packaging Inc. Founder and president Michael Leiberman, a born-and-raised Montrealer, is opening a manufacturing plant south of the border to keep his business alive. The local company's move highlights a growing exodus of Canadian manufacturers driven across the border by escalating trade crossfire and uncompetitive domestic business costs. As cross-border tariffs continue to hurt small and medium-sized businesses, industry experts warn that Canada's economy is ill-equipped to sustain a prolonged trade war with its largest partner. [Montreal manufacturer explores a move to the U.S. as tariff war escalates - Montreal Gazette](#)

16. U.S. Business Continues to Boom as Factory Activity Surges - U.S. manufacturing activity strengthened sharply in September, with factories reporting their fastest growth in output in more than four years as new orders and hiring accelerated, according to a survey released Wednesday. The S&P Global flash manufacturing purchasing managers' index jumped to 57.0 from 53.9 in August, far above the 53.6 reading economists had expected. A reading above 50 indicates an improvement in business conditions from the previous month. September's reading was the highest since May 2022. Manufacturers reported their strongest growth in new orders since that month, while factory employment increased at its fastest pace since February 2021. [U.S. Business Continues to Boom as Factory Activity Surges](#)

17. DOE Allots \$99M to Advance Geothermal Energy Development - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced more than \$99 million for 21 projects selected to advance geothermal energy development across the United States. The projects will conduct field-scale tests of next-generation geothermal technologies and exploration drilling to characterize and potentially confirm promising geothermal resources. The Energy Department is advancing American geothermal innovation to unlock the nation's abundant domestic energy resources. Geothermal can provide reliable, around-the-clock power to help meet growing demand while strengthening U.S. energy security.

[DOE Allots \\$99M to Advance Geothermal Energy Development - tEDmag](#) [Learn more about the selected projects here.](#)

Industry Resources

18. NECA Show 2026 Celebrate 125 Years of NECA on the Show Floor



Opening General Session: Nick Saban - Legendary Hall of Fame Football Coach Celebrate 125 years of leadership, innovation, and impact with NECA on the trade show floor. An interactive anniversary experience will take attendees on a journey through time, highlighting the evolution of the electrical contracting industry and NECA's pivotal role in shaping it. Explore curated displays featuring historical documents, vintage marketing materials, milestone projects and archival photographs that bring NECA's rich legacy to life. Along the way, attendees can scan QR codes at each booth to unlock exclusive digital content and collect pieces of a special end-of-exhibit compilation. NECA's 125th Anniversary honors the past while spotlighting the future of the industry. Join NECA to reflect on where its been, celebrate how far its come and discover what's next for NECA and its member contractors. [NECA Convention - NECA 2026 Las Vegas](#)

19. Designing Connectivity for Head and Vision Robotic Systems - Humanoid robots may appear lifelike on the outside, but the real complexity lies inside the head assembly. Cameras, LiDAR sensors, microphones, displays, and motion actuators must operate together within a compact structure that is constantly in motion. This eBook examines the engineering realities behind humanoid head and vision system design and explains why connector selection should be considered alongside system architecture—not after it. Readers will gain insights into the design constraints shaping next-generation humanoid robots, including signal integrity, high-density packaging, wiring optimization, and mechanical reliability. It also explores connector technologies and interconnect strategies that help engineers build scalable, high-performance robotic systems ready for real-world deployment. [Online Flipbook | Hirose Electric Americas Humanoid Robotic Head eBook](#)



20. A New Software Platform for Lighting Manufacturers by David Shiller - I recently learned about a new type of software for lighting manufacturers that startles many of the typically siloed configurators, CRMs, PIMs, spec sheet generators, AI analytics, branded portals for reps and specifiers, and product spec search. Electrify Connect is positioning itself as a unified software platform for lighting manufacturers seeking to modernize the path from product configuration to quotation, submittal, order visibility and channel support. Rather than offering a standalone quoting tool, the platform combines CPQ, CRM, product-information management, analytics, specification search, automated document creation, AI assistance and ERP integrations in a single manufacturer-controlled environment. At its core is a rules-based configurator designed for the complexity familiar to architectural and commercial lighting suppliers. [A New Software Platform For Lighting Manufacturers | LightNOW](#)
More information is available at: [Electrify](#)

21. Contractor Connect Training by Leviton - The #MoreWithLeviton Contractor Advantage, Future Ready, and NextGen learning experiences give contractors a powerful edge by helping them Learn More, Do More, and Sell More through deeper knowledge, modern installation skills, and forward looking insight across residential, commercial, and industrial applications. These programs combine expert led instruction, demonstrations of the latest electrical infrastructure technology, and practical guidance spanning applications, codes, customer motivations, whole home optimization, smart technologies, EV readiness, and energy management. Contractors walk away with enhanced expertise, stronger project outcomes, and new opportunities to grow their business and meet evolving customer expectations. Register for in-person events at Leviton LIVE experience centers in Lake Nona, FL or Chicago, IL to connect with contractors across the country, share what's new, and help you grow with practical, hands-on experience. [Contractor Connect Training](#)

22. BriteSwitch: Federal EV and EV Charger Tax Credits Have Ended. What Incentives Are Left? – The federal tax credits for EVs and EV chargers have now ended, but that doesn't mean incentive opportunities have disappeared. There are still hundreds of programs available from states, utilities, municipalities, and other organizations. In fact, we're currently tracking 141 open nonfederal EV incentive programs and 501 open nonfederal EV charger programs across the country. We took a closer look at what incentives are still available, where they're coming from, and what companies should be watching as the market continues to change. With hundreds of programs across the country and frequent changes throughout the year, keeping up with EV and EV charger incentives can be difficult. BriteSwitch's RebatePro tools make it easy to stay on top of all those changes. [Federal EV and EV Charger Tax Credits Have Ended. What Incentives Are Left?](#)

23. LCA TV: Lighting Controls Academy Publishes Video Version of Introduction to Dimming Course - The Lighting Controls Academy has published a video version of its popular Education Express course EE103A: Introduction to Dimming, now available at YouTube. This course introduces the core concepts, applications, and coordination practices needed to understand, design, specify, and verify the successful operation of dimming systems in commercial buildings. By the end of this course, you will be able to: 1) advise clients about dimming options, 2) recognize and avoid common dimming problems, 3) utilize dimming various control strategies, and 4) identify documentation and commissioning steps. This course is registered and/or recognized by CALCTP, NLCAA, NCQLP (LC), NALMCO (CLCP), DLC, and the State of California. To gain education credit, click here to access the course and successfully complete the associated quiz at NEMA Academy. [LCA TV: Lighting Controls Academy Publishes Video Version of Introduction to Dimming Course](#)

24. Register Now for the 2026 LC Exam - The Final Due Date to Apply is September 11, 2026..... 2026 LC Exam Dates: October 12, 2026 – November 20, 2026. NCQLP offers the Lighting Certification (LC) Examination for lighting professionals in design, installation, operations and maintenance of lighting equipment and systems. The LC exam tests baseline knowledge of the techniques and technologies required for efficient and effective lighting practice. The exam is four hours and consists of 200 questions. Of these, 20 are unscored questions used for future examination development, and 80 questions are job-related case studies designed to assess the practical application of lighting knowledge. Review the [2026 Candidate Handbook](#) for this year's exam. [Register for the Exam – NCQLP](#)

25. Free E-Book: AI and Building Operations - Wondering how artificial intelligence can improve FM workflows? Our new e-book offers practical guidance on where to use AI, what to ask before you buy, and how to keep human judgment in the loop. Artificial intelligence is everywhere, from generative tools like ChatGPT to agentic solutions that manage workflows for you. But when it comes to incorporating AI into the way you manage buildings, it's hard to know where to begin—and how to avoid paying for a tool that won't meet your needs. Our guide to AI and FM explores tips for incorporating AI into your current workflows, how to watch for false flags in AI-assisted security operations, and more—so you can feel confident using them to enhance the way you work. [Free E-Book: AI and Building Operations | Buildings](#)

Articles of Interest

26. AI in Facilities Management: What Works, What Doesn't, and Where to Start by Zac Wolf - Can artificial intelligence tools actually improve facility management? Yes—if they're used correctly. Here's what you need to know about this industry shift. There's a persistent idea that the endgame for AI is complete autonomy, that the system eventually just runs itself, decisions included. That's not where this is going, especially in facilities management. We're not shifting from human to machine. We're shifting from manual to augmented.

- Most facilities teams are integrating AI as an enhancement to existing processes rather than replacing their systems entirely.
- Effective AI use involves focusing on specific workflows with high volume and friction, testing small-scale solutions before expanding.
- Data quality—accurate location, asset, provider, and work order information—is critical for AI to generate meaningful insights.
- AI is a powerful assistant that supports human judgment, especially in context-sensitive decisions, rather than an autonomous decision-maker.
- Layering AI into workflows where breakdowns occur naturally leads to noticeable improvements without complex system overhauls.

[AI in Facilities Management: What Works, What Doesn't, and Where to Start | Buildings](#)

27. Deloitte: Manufacturers Could Use AI to Address Workforce Shortages - Artificial intelligence could expand the pool of qualified applicants, reimagine workflows, and supplement on-the-job training, study says. Artificial intelligence (AI) could help manufacturers address persistent workforce shortages by expanding the pool of qualified applicants, reimagining workflows, and supplementing on-the-job training, according to a study from Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute (MI). The study focuses on in-demand manufacturing technician roles and how embedding AI into new workflows could help deliver critical knowledge, skills, and guidance to a wider pool of workers in adjacent fields with similar skillsets. In fact, the analysis identifies nearly 2 million technicians in adjacent industries whose broad skills may be transferable to manufacturing. These workers could represent an important source of talent for manufacturers seeking to broaden pathways into technician roles and strengthen their workforce pipeline, and AI could play a crucial role. [Deloitte: Manufacturers could use AI to address workforce shortages | DC Velocity](#)

28. How AI Is Rewiring Electrical Operations by Satish Jayaram - Electrical professionals are facing a convergence of challenges unlike anything the industry has seen in decades. Demand for power is rising, infrastructure is aging, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, and energy costs are increasingly volatile and difficult to predict. At the same time, industrial processes, data centers, health care facilities, and other critical operations have become far less tolerant of power disruptions and quality issues. What might have been a minor disturbance a decade ago can now result in significant operational, financial, or even safety consequences. Many organizations view AI primarily as an automation tool. In my experience, its greatest value in electrical operations is helping facilities make better decisions about reliability, resiliency, and energy economics. As sensors become more pervasive and computing power continues to expand, AI is enabling organizations to move beyond reactive maintenance and siloed decision-making toward operations that are more predictive, connected, and resilient. [How AI Is Rewiring Electrical Operations | EC&M](#)

Monthly Feature

Expanding the Skilled Manufacturing Workforce with AI - AI could help US manufacturers address one of their most pressing workforce challenges: finding and developing more technicians. US manufacturing is increasingly defined by sophisticated, high-precision products that rely on advanced and interconnected production technologies, automation, and capital-intensive processes. In this new paradigm, multiskilled technicians with expertise across multiple technical domains, such as mechanical, electrical, and control systems, have become crucial enablers of operational success.

Although they represent a relatively small share of a manufacturer’s workforce, technicians often play an outsized role in keeping advanced production systems running, supporting the adoption of new processes and technologies, driving efficiency and product quality, and enabling productivity across the factory floor. Demand for these technicians has grown substantially faster than demand for production occupations.

At the same time, applicant shortages and skills gaps have made it difficult for manufacturers to secure the technician workforce they need (figure 1). These workforce challenges can ripple through operations, increasing downtime and constraining production capacity, operational performance, and growth. Artificial intelligence could create a new opportunity to address these challenges. By embedding expertise directly into daily work, AI can help workers, including those with less experience and others transitioning from adjacent industries, develop and apply knowledge and skills in manufacturing roles, thereby broadening the technician talent pool. To explore this opportunity, Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute embarked on a study in May 2026 to map the technician ecosystem across manufacturing and adjacent industries and examine how generative and agentic AI could help reshape technician roles to improve business outcomes and enhance their appeal to current and future workers.

[The skilled manufacturing workforce and AI | Deloitte Insights](#)

