For Immediate Release

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Finelite and the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research Project (PIER) have developed a cost-effective Integrated Classroom Lighting System that improves lighting quality, provides more teacher control, delivers energy savings of 30-50% and installs at the same cost as current layouts.

The heart of the system is two-rows of a high-quality direct/indirect luminaire that is recommended by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA), and the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS). The system uses new, 96% reflective materials together with Super T8 lamps and electronic ballasts to provide excellent general classroom lighting at under 1 watt / square foot.

The performance and quality of lighting is so superior that the luminaire layout can be designed to maximize energy savings and still maintain recommended lighting practices. Plug-and-play components together with factory calibration and pre-approved templates help ensure low installation costs. "Ensuring that this outstanding system can be installed within today's tight budgets is a critical project objective," says Terry Clark, President of Union City, CA based Finelite, Inc. Options include dimming, daylight control, occupancy control, and retrofit-compatible, low-voltage control wiring. This means that each school can tailor the integrated classroom system to meet its unique requirements.

The system incorporates an innovative Teacher Control Center that lets the teacher change the lighting from the front of the classroom. The teacher can select an "up-light" mode that creates well-lighted walls with glare-free illumination. Alternately, the teacher can select the "down-light" mode that focuses the light downward and reduces wall brightness and reflections. This mode is ideal for reading periods and note taking during audio video presentations. The optional dimming system is also controlled from this center.

The Integrated Classroom Lighting System has been installed in 19 test classrooms throughout California. The project will monitor energy consumption and usage patterns in each of these classrooms for the 2003 – 2004 teaching year. Independent researchers have documented overall light levels and teacher preference. The system is in production and design support is available.

To learn more about this system and its components, visit www.energy.ca.gov/PIER, www.archenergy.com/lrp and www.Finelite.com.