

SMUD News Release

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For Immediate Release: March 14, 2003

Sacramento DoubleTree Hotel gets Energy-Efficient Lighting Control System

New demonstration project based on new Berkeley Lab research

A Sacramento DoubleTree Hotel could see energy savings of 15 to 20 percent based on the recent development and installation of a new lighting control system. The pilot project, developed as a partnership with the Berkeley Lab (Lab), DoubleTree Hotels, WattStopper, Inc. the California Energy Commission, and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) involves the installation of the new lighting controls in all 400 of the hotel's guest rooms. The results will be carefully studied over a nine-month time period by Lab researchers.

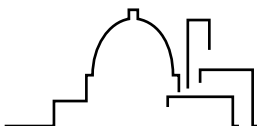
The demonstration project grew from a study to search for ways of improving energy efficiency in the hospitality industry. "The study found that one of the largest energy-saving opportunities in hotel guestroom lighting is the elimination of the extended operation of bathroom fixtures," said Lab lighting researcher Michael Siminovich. "It was found that more than 75 percent of the energy used by these fixtures occurs when bathroom fixtures are left on for more than two hours at a time and most often during the overnight hours."

Researchers determined that the standard solution of installing traditional occupancy sensors that automatically turn out the lights when a guest leaves the room could reduce the comfort level for guests. However, researchers found that sensors with longer set times (one hour or more), could still provide significant energy savings. WattStopper, Inc., a manufacturer of automatic lighting, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and office power control products, developed a sensor based on the Lab's research that would capture energy savings without compromising guest comfort or sacrificing lighting quality.

The newly developed sensor replaces the standard wall switch. It is set to automatically turn off the bathroom lights after one hour. After the lights turn off, an energy-efficient light-emitting diode nightlight turns on providing illumination. The nightlight replaces the need for guests to keep inefficient bathroom lights on throughout the night.

SMUD approached its customer the DoubleTree Hotel to assist with the demonstration project. "It's customers like the DoubleTree Hotel who make the Customer Advanced Technologies program a success," said SMUD Program Manager Dave Bisbee. "They are known for looking at new ways to save energy and improve

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comfort for their guests.”

The Department of Energy’s Office of Building Technologies division funded the research project. WattStopper, Inc. developed the pilot sensor with the help of the California Energy Commission’s Public Interest Energy Research project. DoubleTree Hotels and SMUD will share product and installation costs.

SMUD provided funding under the Customer Advanced Technologies (C.A.T.) program. The program works with SMUD customers to encourage the use and evaluation of new and underutilized technologies.

To learn more about SMUD’s C.A.T. program, visit <http://www.smud.org/community/cat/>

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