



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
January 28, 2014

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### Smart Street Lighting Comes to Downtown

*New street lights will save more than a \$250,000 in energy costs annually*

**DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO** – The City of San Diego today announced it was installing a state-of-art lighting system throughout Downtown that will save energy and money while ensuring that Downtown streets are well-lit and safe.

The new intelligent lighting system is from GE Lighting, and the installation in Downtown makes San Diego the first city in the United States to adopt GE's LightGrid™ technology. The new system, which will be completely installed by this spring, is slated to save the City of San Diego more than \$250,000 a year in energy cost savings. The installation covers 3,000 streetlights throughout Downtown and provides a number of benefits, including:

- Innovative GPS technology to wirelessly alert staff when a light goes out, preventing blacked-out street lights and improving safety.
- Accurate metering and usage information to allow the City to pay only for the electricity it uses.
- Customizable lighting settings to ~~ensure that street lighting doesn't unduly impact Downtown residents~~ create a more pleasing environment for residents.

business owners and visitors to Downtown. For instance, two sides of the lights can be turned down so that it doesn't shine into a second floor bedroom.

"This is a win-win-win-win for Downtown and for the City of San Diego. These smart lights offer improved energy and cost savings while preserving our decorative street lamps and consistently delivering well-lit streets and sidewalks," said Kris Michell, president and CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership.

Michell added that, ~~said~~ the new GE LightGrid is part of a larger effort to ensure Downtown San Diego becomes one of the most sustainable urban centers~~Downtowns~~ in the world.

"This project is a critical building block in our goal to create one of the smartest and most sustainable Downtown's in the world – something that is vitally important to our entire region," Michell said. "This cutting-edge smart grid will ensure that we are creating a Downtown that reduces our carbon footprint and uses our finite resources more effectively now and for generations to come."

Interim Mayor Todd Gloria said: "Light controls are going to be a game changer for the City of San Diego. This innovation will provide us with real-time data on lights that are malfunctioning or not working at all so communities can feel safe with improved lighting while the historic look of the lights is preserved."

The \$5.3 million project will be financed by state and federal loans and grants, and SDG&E rebate funds.

Todd Gloria said: "Light controls are going to be a game changer for the City of San Diego. This innovation will provide us with real time data on lights that are malfunctioning or not working at all, so communities can feel safe with improved lighting while the historic look of the lights is preserved." Lorie Cosio-Azar, project officer, City of San Diego Environmental Services Department, said: "The city of San Diego chose to move to LED street lighting largely because it allows for customizable brightness. It provides a beautiful quality of illumination, and we know that it will enhance the downtown district, creating a more pleasing environment for residents, business owners and the customers who spend time there shopping, dining and just visit [www.gelighting.com/roadway](http://www.gelighting.com/roadway).

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*The Downtown San Diego Partnership is a non-profit, member-based organization that serves as the leading advocate for the revitalization and economic health of Downtown. To learn more about the Downtown Partnership, visit [www.downtownsandiego.org](http://www.downtownsandiego.org).*

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