

A bright idea: LED lighting for Mexico

Summary: A project to change the street lights in Mexico in order to save energy, reduce costs and help the environment – 1211LIGHTING.

By Gabriela Origlia | February 21, 2009

1211LIGHTING presented a new proposal to Mexico City's government to change the street lighting system and begin using Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), fed by solar panels instead of traditional lighting. Should the government accept this proposal, the company claims it could represent important energy and cost savings.

Manuel Padilla, representative of the company in Mexico, explained that the consumption of energy in LEDs is significantly less than incandescent lamps, which makes it sufficient for a solar panel system to provide enough energy and generate enough light to make it comparable to an incandescent light bulb.

This could lead to an autonomous street lighting system, with an average life span of 100 thousand hours. Another advantage of LED systems is the reduction in heat generated by the street lamps.

This technology could be used in parks and avenues, reducing substantially the amount of money municipalities spend on lighting the streets.

Last year, the company installed in Acapulco the largest LED-based installation in Latin America, and within the next few months it will install two more screens on the top floors of Mexico's Latin American Tower in Mexico City.

The LED installed in Acapulco has 2,060 square meters, 4,985 LEDs distributed in 13 rings, and is capable of displaying more than 16 million colors with an LED energy consumption of only 2.3 kW per ring (totally LED 30kW for the entire façade).



Today the company is performing tests on the two screens to be used at the top of the Latin American Tower to guarantee they can be seen from a reasonable distance. The screens' dimensions once installed will be 9 x 35 meters.



Latin American Tower,
Mexico City, Mexico –
1211LIGHTING

1211LIGHTING is not the first company to propose this system; however it was the one chosen for the project, following the company's proposal to take care of all the administrative work needed to get started, including the necessary permits from the Anthropology and History National Institute, the Fine Arts National Institute, Mexico City's government and the municipal government of Cuauhtémoc.

Today, Mexico employs LED-based lighting for advertising during football games.

"We want to create a partnership with the government to help them reduce the energy bill. With a LED-based installation, we guarantee the return on investment (ROI) will not be more than 18 months," said Padilla.

http://www.greenmomentum.com/wb3/wb/gm/gm_content?id_content=1498