CASE STUDY

Miro Controls Save Energy and Support Marketing Efforts in Lighting Showroom

Wabash Electric Supply, Inc.
Ft. Wayne, IN

Wabash Electric is using Watt Stopper/Legrand's Miro Wireless RF Controls to effectively market lighting products and curtail energy use in the company's Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Lighting Design Center, one of the largest lighting showrooms in the state. About 720 lighting fixtures are displayed in 90 clouds throughout the facility, and the lights were originally controlled by industrial pull chains. Circuit breakers for the clouds had to be manually switched on and off before and after store hours. Energy costs for both lighting and cooling exceeded expectations, and so a retrofitable control solution was sought.

Now, a Miro Plug-in Lamp or Appliance Module controls each fixture, enabling remote dimming and switching as well as programmed scene control. The programmed control reduces energy use and creates interest for buyers by cycling preset lighting scenes showcasing a variety of fixtures. At the same time, intuitive handheld controls allow salespeople and customers to turn on selected fixture groups for inspection at any time. The result is a superior sales presentation and energy savings of approximately 60%.

Time-based and manual control

Bruce Monce, controls specialist for Wabash, programmed the devices, which include a Miro Room Scene Interface and Time Clock for automatic control and five Touch Screens for manual control. He broke the lighting into 20 zones and preset five scenes per zone. The Time Clock initiates the scene control a half hour before the showroom opens, and changes scenes every hour. All the display lighting is automatically turned off an hour after closing and is programmed to be off on holidays and weekends.

Each Touch Screen provides individual control of 30 groups of four or five fixtures. Straightforward labeling, including cloud number and fixture numbers, makes it

Watt Stopper products used:

MRP6 Plug-in Lamp Module, MPR7 Plug-in Appliance Module, MRDS10 Touch Screen, MRDC10 Cradle, MSC-100 5-channel Astronomic Time Clock and MRRC3 Room Scene Interface

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Wireless Miro Touch Screens are available for salespeople and customers to use to activate selected lighting groups. A Touch Screen rests on the bureau in this display.

easy for anyone to activate selected lights. Customers are encouraged to carry a Touch Screen around with them as they shop. Monce reports that not only are fixture sales up, but control sales have improved too, as customers realize the powerful options available.

Because Miro uses Watt Stopper/Legrand's RF communications protocol (Topdog™), no control wiring had to be run to the clouds, and the Touch Screens are wireless as well. The only control wiring needed for the installation was between the Time Clock and the Room Scene Interface, which are located under the sales counter for easy access. They are out of the way, but can easily be shown to customers who want demonstrations.

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The Time Clock-activated scenes ensure that display lighting left on by customers is periodically restored to preset levels both to enhance the look of the showroom and prevent energy waste. Additional energy savings were achieved by relamping half of the display lighting with CFLs. The total lighting load was reduced from 43,200 watts to 28,620 watts.

Installing the time-based scene control system with manual override capability resulted in a 60% energy savings in the 8,000 square-foot Wabash Electric Lighting Design Center showroom, which is packed with display fixtures.

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