

Strategy in Action

Lightronics opens European Application Centre

A prison cell, a classroom, a hospital ward, a railway platform and a car park – you can find it all at the new experience centre at Lightronics in Waalwijk.

Having completed the first phase of the refurbishment of its facilities early in 2019, Lightronics opened the second phase, the Group's European Application Centre, in November. The Centre features 800 square metres of interactive, full-scale demonstrations showcasing the latest advancements in lighting control systems, LED technology and luminaire design.

In many areas, light plays a role in well-being and safety and, according to scientific research, can have an impact on learning performance. The interactive classroom demonstrates how Lightronics luminaires provide the ideal lighting solution for modern learning environments. "When daylight decreases, you use your brain less intensively, and the Smart luminaires automatically anticipate this", says project manager Dirk Brands. "The luminaires incorporate SmartScan controls and adjust independently according to the ambient light in the immediate surroundings. This provides good uniformity and maximises energy savings where the natural daylight ingress is varied across the area."

In the simulated hospital room, the patient's well-being is of prime importance. From the bed, the patient does not look at sterile white fluorescent tubes, but rather at the blue sky and clouds of the FlexSystem.

"A different, positive experience," said Brands, "and one that benefits a person."

In the reconstructed prison cell, another aspect of lighting receives attention. The luminaires are designed to be ligature and



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impact-resistant, limiting the risk of occupants self-harming. Added to this, high severity impact testing ensures that the luminaires will sustain no operational impairment during service.

Car parks also require robust luminaires, so the simulated car park area is illuminated with products using UV-stabilised polycarbonate covers and cast aluminium bodies for rigidity and impact resistance.

The Centre was officially opened on 13 November by Alderman John van den Hoven, Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Waalwijk, in the presence of the Mayor of Loon op Zand, Hanne van Aart, and representatives of the European Commission, the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and the province of Noord-Brabant.

The Centre is part of the IKARES project (Intelligent Low Carbon Energy Systems). Partners in IKARES, Lightronics and Global Innovator, aim to make lighting more intelligent and to interconnect it in a network with users and the environment. The objective of the project is to achieve a CO₂ reduction of up to 60% with smart lighting systems. IKARES includes the European Application Centre in Waalwijk, a smart city scale model in Tilburg, and 22 pilot projects in the developed environment in the provinces of Noord-Brabant, Zeeland and Limburg, in the Netherlands. IKARES is co-financed by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund.

