



Expanded from Bill Attardi's EnergyWatch.com

August 2026

<http://learnerslive.com/>
<https://www.youtube.com/@BillAttardi>

Mark Twain

- *Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do.*
 - *Plan for the future, because that is where you are going to spend the rest of your life.*
-

Something to Think About...

Learning to Get Better by Bill Attardi - Learners possess certain attributes that distinguish them from the learned. They anticipate rather than react to change. Some call that vision. They become essential facilitators of change within their altered environment. They can skillfully communicate the new and technically esoteric with a clarity that leads to understanding and advocacy. Organizations that don't value learning and the change that springs from learning will struggle to stay relevant in this fast-paced ever-changing marketplace.

As an Educator, my ambition here is to express my view that education, the learning process, is not a onetime event but rather, something you do all the time. Sounds a lot like Vince Lombardi when he talked about doing things right, not once in a while but all the time, right? Winning is everything..... remember that?

In every environment, in every company, in every department, in every office, in every classroom, on every team, there are inequities. Men and women come in all sizes, all levels of acumen, all degrees of competency, skill and talent.....Many times in any organization and often, not of your choosing, you get a diversity of high performers, good performers, weak performers, and those that do not contribute a dime to the performance of the team. When it comes to standards of performance, you have to decide how much are you willing to tolerate. In my undergraduate classes, especially when they are mostly seniors, and certainly in my graduate classes at Monmouth University, I congratulate them for the progress they have made so far in their collegiate work and no matter the future, as they receive that degree, each and every one of them has earned the right to be called a *highly competent individual*. There's a but: *that's only the beginning, do you have the dedication to learning to get better...deep learning?*

Something you may not know!

These 5 skills are AI-proof and likely to become more valuable over the next 5 years, says Oxford-trained career expert Benjamin Todd - Over the years, we've identified some key skill areas that are more AI-proof, can transfer across a variety of industries, and are likely to increase in value over the next five years:

1. Communication skills - Every organization needs skilled communicators to explain their mission and offerings, both internally and externally. As it becomes easier to create large volumes of content with AI, it's possible the value of content creation will decrease. But the skill of figuring out what to produce in the first place will grow in importance, as will the value of having good judgement about quality. Developing trust and an authentic relationship with your audience will also become more important. More practically, this could look like mastering social media, building a following via a newsletter, gaining PR expertise or running in-person events.

2. Social skills - Every job involves working with others, at least to some degree. A [study](#) from Harvard economist David J. Deming found that those jobs that require social skills have seen rising wages over time. Looking ahead, while AI is getting better at certain types of social interaction, people will still want human connection and care about human-produced work. Amid rapid change, [social skills](#) like building rapport, understanding what others want, acknowledging emotions and resolving conflict will be more important than ever. A great way to do this is to get involved with organizations like [Toastmasters](#), or check out books like "[The Social Skills Guidebook](#)" or "[The Charisma Myth](#)."

3. Leadership, judgment and decision-making skills - In 2017, [we analyzed](#) which skills were most commonly required in the most in-demand jobs, and found that judgement and decision-making came out on top. As AI automates more routine tasks, like scheduling and data collection, the question of what's worth doing in the first place becomes more valuable. Look at the most competent and decisive people in your life. Who do you always trust to steer you right? Talk with them about their approach and what helped them get to this point.

4. Operations management skills - Every organization needs people to actually run things. I'm talking about the day-to-day realities that all companies must handle, like recruitment, setting up financial systems and office administration. Some routine administrative work is now being automated by AI, but humans are still crucial for more complex tasks that require sound judgement, like handling interpersonal concerns. As organizations start to grow faster, they will need good operations staff to keep everything on track. Many of the organizations we speak to say they're always looking for people with these skills. At your company, who is the person who knows all when it comes to admin? Work with them, do substantive projects and get feedback. You could also practice running something on the side, like an events or online business.

5. AI-implementation skills - If I could highlight just one piece of advice, it would be to learn to use AI tools to do real work. Right now, AI is good at well-defined duties, like generating code for two hours. It struggles with messier tasks like coordinating a large group of people, or projects that take several weeks or months. There's a benefit to being a human-in-the-loop who can fill in those gaps and review key decisions. Boosting this skill could look like understanding the strengths and weaknesses of current AI models, writing specs, building systems to check for errors, and knowing what problems to tackle in the first place. While coding skills can help, you don't necessarily need them. A great way to get started with these skills is to [practice using AI to do work](#) in an area you know and care about.

Something you may not know!

Did you know...

Interesting: The Three Pillars of Independence of an Organization

The 3 Pillars of Independence most commonly refers to a framework from the UK voluntary sector (specifically promoted by organizations like Bond and the Directory of Social Change). It is a toolkit for assessing and maintaining the independence of charities, NGOs, or civil society organizations.

The Three Pillars are:

1. **Independent of Party Politics** - The organization (or regulator) must remain free from bias or influence by any political party or the government of the day. Decisions should be impartial, not favoring one political side.
2. **Independent of Populism** - It should not be swayed by popular public opinion, media-driven campaigns, or transient public pressure, especially on controversial or unpopular causes.
3. **Independent of the Press** - Freedom from media influence or pressure, ensuring decisions are based on evidence and law rather than headlines or public narratives.

This toolkit was created to monitor potential political encroachment on charitable regulation and to ensure charities can operate without undue external interference.

Check out the learning sessions we posted... <http://learnerslive.com/>

August Blog: *Learning to Get Better by Bill Attardi*

WE ARE NOW LIVE ON YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/@BillAttardi>



LEARNERS LIVE

<https://www.youtube.com/@BillAttardi>
E-Learning Showcase - Learners Live

1. Effective Sales Presentation Skills - #1 #2 #3
2. Selling in the Executive Suite
3. SWOT Analysis and Generative AI
4. Customer-Centric in the Digital Age
5. Innovation in the Digital Age
6. STP is Customer-Centric Marketing
7. You Write It / AI Fine-Tunes It!
8. Competent Individual to Inspirational Leader
9. The Value Exchange
10. Leadership – Transactional vs. Transformational
11. Guerrilla Marketing
12. Just Three Things to Remember for a Dynamic Presentation

Something you may not know!

Learning News

1. ***As AI Companies Race for Power, Amazon and Google Have the Lead by Jinjoo Lee -*** Amazon has an incumbent advantage, and Google stands out for some innovative approaches. The rapid adoption of AI has intensified power demand among hyperscale cloud companies, with Amazon and Google at the forefront. Amazon's US self-built data centers now use up to 9 gigawatts of power, a figure comparable to an entire state's generation capacity. Google and Microsoft trail with capacities around 5 gigawatts each, while Meta sits at 4 gigawatts. The competition is not merely about expansion but also about securing reliable, scalable power sources to meet the growing requirements of AI workloads. All the hyperscalers have also placed bets on novel technology providers that promise to eventually supply cheap, clean, reliable and fast energy. These range from small modular nuclear reactors, advanced geothermal and novel batteries to solar energy beamed in from space. SpaceX and Google are even eyeing [data centers in space](#). [As AI Companies Race for Power, Amazon and Google Have the Lead - WSJ](#)
2. ***Cooper Lighting Solutions Is Certified 'Make It American' by NEMA -*** The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) announced that **Cooper Lighting Solutions** has become the first lighting manufacturer certified under NEMA's **Make It American™** program, extending the domestic content certification program into a major category of federally funded infrastructure and construction. The company manufactures residential, commercial, industrial, sports, and infrastructure lighting and controls. The certification gives contractors, government agencies, and procurement officials a new lighting-sector resource as they work to meet domestic requirements under the bipartisan Build America, Buy America Act. Cooper Lighting Solutions becomes the 12th company with at least one Make It American-certified facility listed. [Cooper Lighting Solutions is Certified 'Make It American' by NEMA](#)
3. ***Analysis: Proposed Building Codes Would Cost Americans \$9.2B Per Year -*** The **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)** released a new **analysis** finding that nationwide adoption of the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) would significantly increase housing construction costs and burden American families with costly Green New Scam mandates. DOE's analysis found that the 2024 IECC would increase residential construction costs by more than \$9.2 billion annually compared to the 2006 code levels, adding more than \$127 billion in cumulative costs nationwide. If states choose to update their energy codes to the 2024 IECC, construction costs for a typical single-family home could increase by as much as **\$14,000**. These costly mandates force American families to pay thousands of dollars more upfront for a new home, while projected energy savings may take decades to materialize. In most states, estimated payback periods exceed 10 years, with some exceeding 20 years. Under President Trump's leadership, DOE will continue implementing Executive Order, **Removing Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Home Construction**, to put homeowners first and allow Americans to decide how to build and power their homes. [Analysis: Proposed Building Codes Would Cost Americans \\$9.2B Per Year](#)

Something you may not know!

4. ***The Trump Administration Has Decided Not to Extend USMCA Trade Deal*** - The United States has declined to extend the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) during its mandatory six-year review, launching a 10-year countdown that could ultimately bring an end to the agreement unless the three countries agree to significant revisions. The move, announced Wednesday by the Trump administration, does not immediately terminate the agreement. Instead, it activates the treaty's "sunset clause," requiring annual reviews until 2036 unless the United States, Mexico, and Canada reach a consensus on extending the pact for another 16 years. The decision injects fresh uncertainty into one of the world's largest trading blocs, which governs nearly \$2 trillion in annual trade among the three nations. [The Trump Administration Has Decided Not to Extend USMCA Trade Deal. Now A Countdown Begins to Change It | IBTimes](#)

5. ***Toyota, in \$3.6 Billion Move, Shifting Tacoma Production to Texas from Mexico*** - Toyota said Monday it will shift most production of its midsize Tacoma pickup truck from Mexico to the United States as part of a \$3.6 billion investment in its San Antonio, Texas, plant. The transition from Toyota's Tijuana, Mexico, facility will take roughly four years, the Japanese auto giant said. The announcement comes just days after Washington declined to renew a North American trade pact with Mexico, as well as Canada, fueling uncertainty for businesses. Toyota said in November it planned to invest as much as \$10 billion in the United States over the next five years. The world's largest automaker by vehicle sales, Toyota plans to build a second assembly line at its San Antonio factory, creating more than 2,000 jobs and increasing annual production capacity at the plant by 150,000 units, the company said in a statement. [Toyota, in \\$3.6 billion move, shifting Tacoma production to Texas from Mexico](#)

6. ***Construction Firms Add 11,000 Jobs in June*** - Construction firms added 11,000 jobs in June and 64,000 over 12 months, as pay for craft workers climbed faster than for production workers overall, according to an **analysis** by the **Associated General Contractors of America** of new government data. Association officials cautioned, however, that future construction job gains are at risk unless Congress acts quickly to pass new highway and transit legislation before the current law expires on Sept. 30. Construction employment totaled 8,331,000 in June, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 11,000 from May. Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 64,000 jobs, an increase of 0.8 percent, outpacing the 0.3 percent increase in total nonfarm payroll employment. Gains in the industry were concentrated in nonresidential construction, with the steepest growth rate occurring in heavy and civil engineering construction, the sector that employs many highway and transit construction workers. Nonresidential firms added 19,900 employees in June and 113,400 positions or 2.3 percent over the past 12 months. [Construction Firms Add 11,000 Jobs in June – tEDmag](#)

7. ***ADP: National Employment Report for June*** - Private sector employment increased by 98,000 jobs in June and pay was up 4.4 percent year-over-year according to the June **ADP National Employment Report®** produced by ADP Research in collaboration with the Stanford Digital Economy Lab ("Stanford Lab"). View the *ADP National Employment Report* and interactive charts at [**www.adpemploymentreport.com**](http://www.adpemploymentreport.com). [ADP: National Employment Report for June](#)

Something you may not know!

8. ***Wholesale Sales Surge in May as Electrical Products Stay Strong*** - U.S. wholesale sales posted another strong gain in May, led in part by continued strength in electrical products, even as inventory growth slowed, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest **Monthly Wholesale Trade Report**. Electrical wholesalers reported one of the strongest performances among durable goods sectors in May, with sales up 6.2% from April and 37.2% year over year. Inventories increased 22.2% from a year ago, while the inventory-to-sales ratio improved to 0.87 from 0.97 last May, indicating faster inventory turnover. [Wholesale Sales Surge in May as Electrical Products Stay Strong – tEDmag](#)

9. ***Meta Expands Louisiana Data Center Project with \$50B Investment*** - Meta announced that it is expanding its Richland Parish, Louisiana, data center to 5GW of compute capacity in a town that's already seeing big returns for teachers, local businesses, and students. The data center expansion is an investment of more than \$50 billion in the Richland Parish region — one of the largest investments in AI infrastructure in the world, build in America — supporting infrastructure projects, workforce development programs, and an energy agreement that is expected to save Entergy Louisiana customers more than **\$2 billion** over 20 years, on top of the **\$650 million** in savings for customers from the first agreement. Louisiana Delta Community College is receiving a \$5 million donation from Meta to create scholarships to train local residents for critical data center jobs. All graduates from Richland Parish's high schools, beginning with the class of 2026, will be eligible for full scholarships for any data center-related trade certificate or course. Meta pays the full costs of the energy, water, and related infrastructure the data center uses so consumers aren't paying the cost. [Meta Expands Louisiana Data Center Project With \\$50B Investment – tEDmag](#)

10. ***3M, Microsoft Partner to Advance AI Data Center Infrastructure*** - 3M and Microsoft announced a strategic partnership focused on AI data center infrastructure and enterprise transformation. Microsoft's Azure Cloud and AI Infrastructure will become the first announced hyperscale cloud provider to deploy 3M's Expanded Beam Optical (EBO) technology. 3M will also use Microsoft's AI and digital platforms as part of its enterprise transformation across key business functions. Together, the companies will combine Microsoft's digital and hyperscale infrastructure with 3M's materials science and precision manufacturing to accelerate AI adoption and strengthen the physical networks required for the growth of cloud and AI workloads. [3M, Microsoft Partner to Advance AI Data Center Infrastructure](#)

11. ***TSMC's \$265B US Expansion: Four New Chip Fabs Planned*** - Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co has expanded its investment in US chipmaking capacity, bringing the total planned amount to \$265 billion. The chipmaker has earmarked another four fabrication plants as part of the \$100 billion package, bringing TSMC's total US capacity to 10 factories and two packaging facilities. The expansion comes as AI demand continues to stretch TSMC's capacity, with the company reporting record quarterly profits and raising its capital expenditure forecast to between \$60 billion and \$64 billion. It comes five months after TSMC announced its first \$100 billion investment increase, committing the company to building three additional fabrication plants, two packaging facilities, and a research lab in Phoenix, Arizona. [TSMC's \\$265B US Expansion: Four New Chip Fabs Planned](#)

Something you may not know!

12. Making Daylight Savings Time (DST) Permanent - While this sounds amazing in the summer, the winter months would feel drastically different under permanent DST:

- Before the change (Standard Time): Sunrise ~6:30 AM, Sunset ~6:10 PM.
- After springing forward (DST): Sunrise ~7:30 AM, Sunset ~7:10 PM.
- **Pitch-Black Winter Mornings:** In the dead of winter (December and January), standard sunrise is around 7:15 AM to 7:30 AM across much of the US. Under permanent DST, the sun wouldn't rise until **8:15 AM or even 8:30 AM**. Most people would commute and start their workday or school day in total darkness.
- **Slightly Brighter Winter Evenings:** Instead of the sun setting at a gloomy 4:30 PM, you'd get daylight until about 5:30 PM.

Health experts are concerned with how those daylight hours align with our circadian rhythms. GenAI

13. Siemens Energy Breaks Ground on New Mississippi Factory - Siemens Energy broke ground on a new factory in Pearl, Mississippi, marking the next step in the company's effort to expand manufacturing capacity for critical grid technologies. The company announced on February 3 that it is investing \$300 million in Mississippi. The factory, Siemens Energy's second in the state, will manufacture high-voltage switchgear and is expected to create up to 300 jobs. Governor Tate Reeves presided over the ceremony. Siemens Energy has been manufacturing in Mississippi since 1973 and has a factory in Richland that makes high-voltage switchgear. Earlier this year, the company announced that it was investing \$1 billion to ramp-up manufacturing in the United States and significantly expand its workforce.

[Siemens Energy Breaks Ground on New Mississippi Factory – tEDmag](#)

14. Siemens Energy Will Shed the Siemens Name, Rebrand as Omterra by Aaron Larson - The



Siemens name is coming off one of the power industry's largest equipment and service suppliers. Siemens Energy announced July 14 that it has begun preparing the transition to an independent corporate brand, with Siemens Energy and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy to be united under a single new name: **Omterra**. The rebranding process is scheduled to begin later this calendar year and will be rolled out in stages. The

change is the scheduled endgame of the company's 2020 spin-off from Siemens AG.

[Siemens Energy Will Shed the Siemens Name, Rebrand as Omterra](#)

15. AI Boom to Drive Data Center Electricity Demand to 20% of US Total by 2035 - Data centers in the US are projected to consume 20% of the nation's electricity by 2035, a significant rise from 5.9% this year. The increase reflects a dramatic surge in energy demand, particularly in states like Virginia and Texas, where data centers are heavily clustered. BloombergNEF forecasts data center power requirements will reach 194 gigawatts, underscoring the sector's escalating impact on national power consumption over the next decade. [AI Boom to Drive Data Center Electricity Demand to 20% of US Total by 2035 - Bloomberg](#)

Something you may not know!

- 16. *Trump Unveils New Tariffs Designed to Withstand Legal Scrutiny by Gavin Bade*** - New duties, ranging from 10% to 12.5%, will replace a temporary tariff put in place after the Supreme Court derailed Trump's trade agenda in February. Goods covered by separate national security tariffs like steel, aluminum, automobiles and parts, won't be subject to the new tariffs, and certain food and agricultural imports, fertilizers and energy products will also be exempt. The new levies are based on a frequently used section of trade law—Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974—that is considered more legally durable than the basis for the tariffs the Supreme Court struck down. Once in place, the levies can remain indefinitely and be unilaterally altered by the president. The immediate economic impacts of the tariffs are expected to be limited, as the new tariff rates are similar to the 10% global tariff that expires early Friday. [Trump Unveils New Tariffs Designed to Withstand Legal Scrutiny - WSJ](#)
- 17. *Home Advantage: 80% of Sports Fans Prefer the Sofa to the Sporting Stands*** – Signify g, announced new research from Philips Hue and Philips Smart Lighting showing that sports fans¹ are swapping packed pubs and crowded stadiums for something far more personal: their homes. 80% of fans admit they'd rather watch from home. The research also indicates that fans are investing time and effort into the at-home experience. Over a third (38%) say they spend up to an hour preparing for kick-off. Setting up snacks (49%), perfecting lighting (35%) and decorating their space (31%) are all undertaken in a bid to create the ultimate atmosphere. Philips Hue and Philips Smart Lighting (connected by WiZ) are introducing Sports Live, a new software designed to help fans create a true “home stadium” atmosphere and experience. With compatible smart lighting, Sport Live can bring matches to life beyond the screen - from a dramatic kick-off countdown to flashes of color for key moments, including goals, yellow and red cards, set pieces and penalties. The result is a fully immersive experience that allows fans to not just watch the game, but to feel part of it. As a summer of sport kicks off, Philips Smart Lighting is helping fans turn every match into an experience, transforming living rooms into front-row seats, and everyday viewing into something far more powerful. https://www.ledinside.com/news/2026/6/2026_06_30_01
- 18. *Avant Brands Completes Major LED Lighting Retrofit at its 80,000 Sq Ft Flowr Facility*** - Avant Brands Inc., is pleased to announce the successful completion of a comprehensive facility-wide lighting retrofit at the Company's largest cultivation facility, The Flowr Group Okanagan Inc. (“Flowr”), located in Kelowna, B.C. The project replaced traditional high-pressure sodium (HPS) fixtures with energy-efficient LED lighting fixtures above- and below-canopy across the entire 80,000 square foot facility across 100% of flower rooms, supported by funding from a Government of British Columbia energy efficiency incentive program. The initiative aligns with the company's commitment to operational excellence, cost reduction, and environmental stewardship while enhancing cultivation quality and yield. Flowr Project Highlights at https://www.ledinside.com/news/2026/7/2026_07_23_04
- 19. *Texas Gains \$5.5B In Income As Four Metros Crack U.S. Growth Top 10 by Drew Robinson*** - Texas gained \$5.54 billion in adjusted gross income from interstate movers as its four largest metropolitan areas ranked among the nation's top 10 for population growth, federal data show. IRS records ranked Texas second only to Florida, which gained \$20.6 billion in net adjusted gross income. California lost \$11.9 billion, while New York lost \$9.9 billion. [Texas Gains \\$5.5B In Income As Four Metros Crack U.S. Growth Top 10](#)

Something you may not know!

Education Resources

20. *DLC Releases Updated Networked Lighting Controls Technical Requirements -*

Reinforcing the role of lighting controls as the foundation for deeper energy savings through connected commercial lighting, the [DesignLights Consortium](#) (DLC) today finalized updates to its [Networked Lighting Controls \(NLC\) Technical Requirements](#). NLC systems that apply for and meet the requirements are listed on the NLC Qualified Products List (NLC QPL), which is used by industry stakeholders to select and verify high-quality NLC systems. The NLC QPL is the only list of its kind that provides extensive, verified information on interoperability, cybersecurity, and data access for each system. Taking effect August 3, [NLC V5.2](#) reflects feedback received from DLC members and lighting industry stakeholders during a public comment period that followed release of the first draft of the policy in March. For additional context, please see the [DLC Blog](#). The DLC will host two webinars to provide more information on NLC V5.2. The NLC V5.2 Final Release Webinar highlighting key details of the technical requirements will take place on July 8 at 3 PM ET – [register here](#). A second webinar at 1 PM ET on Aug. 3, NLC V5.2 Application Guidance, will focus on implementation of the new policy – [register here](#).

21. *Architecture + Design Master Continuing Education -* Architecture + Design Master Continuing Education from Endeavor Business Education gives architects and design practitioners the opportunity to earn free continuing education units (CEUs) through online articles and webinars, making it easy for them to maintain their licenses. To receive one hour of continuing education credit as approved by IDCEC or one learning unit approved by AIA, simply click on an article or webinar to view it and take the associated multiple choice exam. Elevate your professional expertise on the go. Our website is optimized for responsiveness, ensuring a seamless learning experience on any device—be it a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Access your continuing education content from anywhere, at any time, and stay connected with your professional development— it's that easy! [Architecture & Design Master Continuing Education](#)

22. *Lighting Controls Academy Publishes Video Version of Education Express Course "Introduction to Lighting Controls" -* The Lighting Controls Academy has updated its most popular Education Express course, EE101: Introduction to Lighting Controls, now available at NEMA Academy. LCA has published a video version of EE101, a free course available at YouTube. A good lighting design is incomplete without a good controls design. Controls may be simple or highly sophisticated, but every control system can be defined by the same fundamentals: inputs, outputs, programming, communication, and sequence of operations. In this video course, fundamental lighting controls concepts are introduced. By the end of this course, you will be able to: 1) identify and select common lighting control strategies, 2) recognize and select common lighting control devices, 3) compare basic system types, and 4) ask informed questions when evaluating lighting control systems. Written by Craig DiLouie and thoroughly updated and presented by C. Webster Marsh. Bookmark the [Video Courses](#) for the complete offering. [Lighting Controls Association — The Lighting Controls Authority](#)

Something you may not know!

- 23. *Your Analytics Learning Hub for Utilities - UAI Training*** delivers industry-aligned, hands-on learning for utility analytics professionals. Learn from experienced instructors who understand real utility challenges and provide practical skills teams can apply immediately. UAI Training courses span foundational through advanced topics, supporting analytics professionals, leaders, and teams across the utility enterprise. Each course is delivered by experienced instructors who understand utility operations and real-world analytics challenges. Explore UAI's full portfolio of analytics training courses designed exclusively for utility organizations at: [Courses - Utility Analytics Training](#)

Publications of Learning

- 24. *Specifying Sustainability with Confidence*** - Sustainability is no longer a separate design consideration—it is central to how buildings are planned, specified, operated and evaluated. [This cross-brand eBook](#) brings together timely insights on the evolving practice of specifying for sustainability. From navigating LEED v5 and understanding standardized Environmental Product Declarations to evaluating biomaterials, healthier interiors, energy-saving solutions and next-generation product selection tools, this resource is designed to help built environment professionals make more informed decisions with confidence. Whether you are designing a new space, renovating an existing building, managing a portfolio or advising clients on better material choices, this eBook offers a practical look at the tools, trends and strategies shaping sustainable specification today. [Specifying Sustainability with Confidence: Your guide to smarter product selection, material transparency and high-performance buildings | Buildings](#)
- 25. *BAS: Five Global Trends That Will Define Your Strategy*** - Building automation is entering a smarter, more connected era, but outdated systems, rising energy costs and workforce gaps can quickly limit performance. This article explores five global trends shaping BAS and shows how AI, cloud-based platforms, integrated controls and intelligent retrofits can improve efficiency, strengthen resilience and protect long-term investments. [Read it now](#) to build a future-ready strategy before today's limitations become tomorrow's obstacles.
- 26. *Deep Dive: Fundamentals of Commercial Lighting Controls by Craig DiLouie*** - A good lighting design is incomplete without a good controls design. Lighting controls determine when the lights turn On, when they turn Off, how bright they are, which luminaires respond, the response to daylight or occupancy, and how occupants interact with the lighting in the space. Controls may be simple or highly sophisticated, but every control system can be defined by the same fundamentals: inputs, outputs, programming, communication, and sequence of operation. This content is written for those who already have a working knowledge of lighting and now need a foundation in lighting controls. Lighting controls may be as simple as a wall switch or as advanced as a networked system..... Lighting professionals focus on providing good lighting design that supports visibility, comfort, safety, appearance, and energy performance. Lighting controls determine how the lighting behaves. A lighting system without appropriate controls may provide the right amount of light, but not necessarily at the right time, for the right task, or in the way occupants prefer. Controls facilitate the lighting system. [Deep Dive: Fundamentals of Commercial Lighting Controls](#)

Something you may not know!

New Technologies

- 27. Amerlux ORDX5 Wet Locations Downlight** - The Amerlux ORDX5 is a sealed downlight intended for open or uncovered canopies with direct exposure to the elements. UL listed for Wet Locations the fixture provides up to 1577 lumens and can be configured with choice of beam spreads, CCT's, and output. A die-cast housing with powder coat finish protects from the elements above and allows direct connection to "liquid tight" flexible conduit often used in those applications. It can also be used in exterior covered ceilings as well. The fixture easily installs in metal ceilings (or canopies) as well as other ceiling materials with a thickness from .007" to 1.25". [ORDX5 - Amerlux - Commercial Interior Lighting Products Features & Benefits: Wattage 16W max; Lumen Output 1,577 max; Color Temp \(CCT\) 2700K, 3000K, 3500K, 4000K; Color Rendering Index \(CRI\) 80+, 90+. Spec Sheet: \[LIT-E0206-ORDX5-062526.pdf\]\(#\)](#)



- 28. Alloy LED Radialux™ 5.5 COB RGBTW Tape Light** - New offering from Alloy LED seamlessly integrates dynamic RGB color-changing with tunable white light. Radialux 5.5 COB RGBTW Tape Light is a premium 5-channel LED tape light that combines dynamic color-changing (RGB) capabilities with tunable white light (2700K–6500K), all in a dot-free COB format. With seamless illumination and five-channel control, this tape light offers unlimited design flexibility for color-rich architectural accents, immersive environments, and high-end residential or commercial spaces. Designed for use with advanced controllers, the Radialux 5.5 COB can create vivid saturated colors, soft pastels, or perfectly balanced whites—all from a single light source. The Chip-on-Board (COB) construction delivers a smooth, continuous line of light with no visible diode gaps, even in direct view applications. [Radialux™ 5.5 COB RGBTW Tape Light - Alloy LED](#)



- 29. SATCO LED Trimless Surface-Mount Fixtures** - SATCO|NUVO's LED Trimless Surface Mount Fixtures were designed to combine clean, modern aesthetics with versatile performance for a refined lighting solution. Designed with a seamless, trimless outside edge, these fixtures deliver a sleek, low-profile look that blends effortlessly into the ceiling plane. A frosted lens ensures smooth, even light diffusion, while 5 CCT selectability (2,700K–5,000K) allows for easy on-site customization. Available in 5-in. and 7-in. sizes with black or white finish options, these fixtures offer flexibility to suit a range of design preferences. A preinstalled gasket helps support a secure fit for wet location applications, while long-lasting performance ensures dependable illumination with a polished architectural feel. [62-1003 9W 5" 5CCT 120V WHT FIXTURE](#)



Something you may not know!

30. Sensing and Illumination in Humanoid Robotics by ams OSRAM - Humanoid robots are designed for direct interaction with humans in real-world environments such as industrial



production, logistics, healthcare and services. They rely on advanced sensing to detect people, objects and motion, enabling safe navigation and collaboration. High-precision sensing and active illumination are key building blocks, providing real-time environmental awareness and supporting safe physical interaction through technologies such as infrared sensing, 3D depth sensing and optical force sensing. Beyond functionality, light-based visualization helps humanoid robots communicate status and intent in an intuitive, non-verbal way, improving user understanding and supporting safe

coexistence with humans. **Lighting also plays a key role in human–robot interaction (HRI) by signaling status, intent and presence. Visible LEDs increase recognizability and trust, while projection systems provide intuitive, nonverbal communication.**

[Humanoid Robots – 3D Sensing, LiDAR & Safe Human Interaction | ams OSRAM](#)

VIDEO: [Optical Technologies Behind Humanoid Robots](#)

31. RAB H17 UFO LED High Bay - The newest generation of the H17 is smaller and lighter



than its already-compact original. The smallest body is less than a foot in diameter, and the entire family delivers incredibly high output, replacing up to 1000W MH while boasting even higher efficacy than before...all at a rock-bottom price. The H17 includes an expansion port that makes it easy to screw on standard or Lightcloud Blue-enabled passive infrared (PIR) and microwave (MVS) sensors, which can be configured to adjust brightness and hold time, saving additional energy and costs. A remote is also available for an

additional level of control. [H17B - RAB Lighting](#) Spec sheet: [H17B](#)

32. A First Look at Galaxy Watch Ultra2 and Galaxy Watch9 - At Galaxy Unpacked July 2026 in London, [Explore Samsung Watches | Galaxy Smartwatches | Samsung US](#)

Samsung Electronics unveiled Galaxy Watch Ultra2 and Galaxy Watch9, expanding the



digital health experience on the wrist. From the moment users wake up to the time they finish a workout and begin recovery, a smartwatch stays in contact with the body throughout the day. Galaxy Watch Ultra2 (on left), built for precise workout tracking and structured training in demanding environments. Galaxy Watch9 (on right), designed for everyday health management spanning sleep, cardiovascular health, exercise and recovery.

https://www.ledinside.com/news/2026/7/2026_07_27_02



Something you may not know!

LearnersLive Special Feature

How AI Is Rebuilding Engineering From the Inside Out - ACEC Research Institute www.acecresearchinstitute.org releases new report concluding that most successful firms will use tech to enhance workers, not eliminate them. Artificial intelligence is fundamentally changing how engineering work gets done, while demand for infrastructure surges and the talent pipeline continues to contract. In the midst of this disruption, one thing remains constant: the irreplaceable role of the engineer. A new report from the ACEC Research Institute takes on all three forces at once — concluding from the data that the firms who thrive in the future won't be those that replace their people with technology, but those that unleash the full potential of their engineers through it.

Key Highlights

- AI will augment engineers' capabilities, transforming them into designers of intelligent systems;
- Data is a critical strategic asset; firms that effectively utilize project data will gain a competitive advantage and avoid dependency on external platforms;
- Infrastructure is evolving into a continuous performance data source, enabling long-term lifecycle partnerships and digital twin integration;
- The report provides a six-point strategic roadmap covering data strategy, workflow redesign, talent development, and industry collaboration;
- Emerging AI-native engineering firms are being built around digital systems, signaling a fundamental industry shift.

The report identifies six structural ideas — organized around three themes — that define the engineering firm of the future: [How AI Is Rebuilding Engineering from the Inside Out | HPAC Engineering](http://www.acecresearchinstitute.org)



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