

**“What application will benefit most from the integration of solid state lighting?”**

Street lighting and area lighting (such as parking lot, garage, and walkway illumination) will undoubtedly reap the benefits from the integration of solid state lighting. These applications have several successful, well-documented pilot projects in the field and have been creating a lot of industry buzz.

Street lighting and area lighting have enormous installation bases and present the opportunity for very large energy and cost savings. These potential savings are a direct result of the advantages inherent to solid state lighting sources: namely high efficiency and reliability. The facts that street and area lights are powered for long periods of time, consume a fair amount of energy, are often in harsh physical environments, are not easily accessible and therefore carry potentially high maintenance costs, make them perfect applications for solid state lighting.

Although LEDs remain a costly alternative to conventional light sources, the prices have been dropping steadily for the past two years. The promise of long-term financial savings, coupled with some of the funding that is available for converting to energy-saving technologies, suggests that the next few years will see a huge number of conversions to solid state lighting, particularly in the applications of street and area lighting.