



Retrospective Case Study

LAX 2006 – 2010

Location | Los Angeles, California, USA
Philips Lighting | Philips Color Kinetics LED Lighting

PHILIPS



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— Bill Cameron, Los Angeles World Airports



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Fast Facts

Industry Sector

Architectural

Fixtures

ColorBlast Powercore, Data Enabler

Lighting Design

Paul Tzanetopoulos

Lighting Equipment, Consultation, and Installation

Angstrom Lighting

Polaris Lighting

Photo Credit

Los Angeles World Airports

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the fifth busiest airport in the world, accommodating more than 61 million travelers per year. In September 2006, LAX installed a major new LED lighting system to improve visual impact and reduce energy and maintenance costs.

The lighting renovation called for approximately 1,800 ColorBlast® Powercore LED floodlights to replace the five-year-old metal halide lamps that had illuminated the LAX Gateway, 26 glass pylons leading to the airport entrance. The pylons range in height from 25 to 110 ft (7.6 to 33.5 m), and create a colorful and welcoming experience for airport visitors.

ColorBlast Powercore fixtures can produce 16.7 million colors at the push of a button while consuming only 50 watts each. Since they were installed four years ago, the LED lighting fixtures have cut energy consumption by 75%, reducing annual electricity costs from \$73,000 to \$18,000.

The entire system runs 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and requires minimal upkeep, cutting maintenance costs from \$1 million to just \$20,000 annually. Twice a year, a maintenance team clears dirt and sediment off the lenses. Over the life of the installation, only 70 fixtures have needed replacement — the result of a faulty waterproof electrical box rather than fixture failures.

“We are extremely pleased with the installation, and if we had to do it again, we wouldn’t change a thing,” said Bill Cameron of Los Angeles World Airports. “It was a significant investment for us, but over the past four years it has paid us back in energy and maintenance savings more than three times over. On top of the economic benefits, the pylons are more uniformly lit from top to bottom and the colors are so vibrant.”

Airport management intends to keep the LAX Gateway running as long as it can, and will replace the system only when it is too old or costly to maintain, which Cameron says “will probably not happen during my long tenure with the company.” In fact, the airport recently purchased more than 200 additional ColorBlast Powercore fixtures to serve as backup inventory when older fixtures need to be replaced.

Due to the success of the initial installation, Los Angeles World Airports has expanded their use of LED lighting fixtures from Philips Color Kinetics. Most recently, 50 eW® Blast Powercore floodlights were installed inside Terminal Four to provide general illumination and highlight architectural details.



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