

COMMERCIAL BUILDING CONTROL WITH LUTRON VIVE



5 BENEFITS OF COMMERCIAL BUILDING CONTROL WITH LUTRON VIVE

Lite Rite Controls recently spoke with Chelsea Till, Senior Sales Engineer at Lutron about commercial building control with Lutron Vive. We wanted to find out what set **Lutron Vive** apart from other commercial building control systems. Here is our recent conversation:

Lite Rite Controls (LRC): Hello Chelsea and thank you for answering a few questions about Lutron Vive. Can you tell us what makes Lutron Vive offering superior to other commercial building control offerings on the market today?

Chelsea Till (CT): Lutron Vive is a great solution for commercial building control for a number of reasons. One, most of the products have been available for about 10 years and have been installed in many different scenarios, including historical buildings, medical treatment facilities, government, education, and retail. The system is compatible with many different types of light sources and dimming protocols. Its wireless backbone is Clear Connect, which in my opinion is one of the biggest and most important differentiators of our product on the market.

LRC: Can you tell us a little more about Clear connect and why it's important for commercial building controls?

CT: Clear Connect technology was developed before Wi-Fi was even available. 434MHz is a channel with specific FCC mandates that limit the total amount of communication time between devices. Because of these mandates, very few wireless devices use this channel, which means no interference with other systems. Another reason why 434MHz is the best channel for commercial lighting control communication is the increased distance the signals can travel and the types of materials it can travel through. Load Controllers have a 30/60 ft. rule and the hub can talk through any construction material within 71ft.

LRC: How long has Lutron been developing and testing Vive technology?

CT: Clear Connect was created sometime around 1997. Energi TriPak first debuted in 2008. The Vive hub was in R&D for about two years before the full launch of the product last November (2017).

LRC: So Lutron Vive's technology has an established track record. That's great. Is there a challenging job that Vive was used on and will you talk about how Vive worked through those challenges? **Applications for Lutron Vive**

CT: We had a 100-year-old high school with asbestos and lead all over everything. The hallways are over 250 ft. long. The school wanted to use sensors to shut off lights when no one was in the hallway. However, running wire is too costly because of the required abatement. Using wireless load controllers and the Vive hub, we ended up using time clock functionality to save energy. This solution was the most cost effective because of the decreased wiring labor, much less asbestos and lead interference (if any at all), and we removed sensors from the hallways that could be damaged in a high

school environment.

Another solution was using the **Pico Remote** to solve ADA compliance. The same 100-year-old school with lead and asbestos. We kept the switch in its current location but replaced it with a **Maestro Wireless switch (or dimmer)**. The Pico was then placed at the correct ADA height. This gave proper control to both disabled and non-disabled occupants.

LRC: Great solution for a difficult situation. Overall, what are customers saying out there about installation and programming?

CT: General feedback is that this product is very simple to install, simple to program, and simple for the end user to understand. One of the great things about this product is the rolling commissioning. Once you commission a room, that space is up and running and you can add other spaces at any time without disturbing the initial rooms. This product also allows you to build a system that's right for you, by starting standalone only and adding a hub later, or jumping in head first, right away.

LRC: Simple, affordable and scalable solutions for today's demanding energy codes, even under the most demanding circumstances. It's no surprise that Vive by Lutron is generating so much interest. Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions.

Enjoy this five minute video with Edrei about Lutron Vive.