Lablink

Winter 2008

Labcraft
DESIGN LED LIGHTING

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a quarterly newsletter connecting Labcraft to their customers

Welcome to lablink, the newsletter to keep you in touch with low voltage lighting developments from Labcraft.

With the nights drawing in, artificial lighting is becoming increasingly important to ensure safe working conditions are not compromised and this can put additional strain on batteries and power systems. The ramifications of this take up your time, and it's true – time is money and cash is king – rarely has this been more so than the present time.

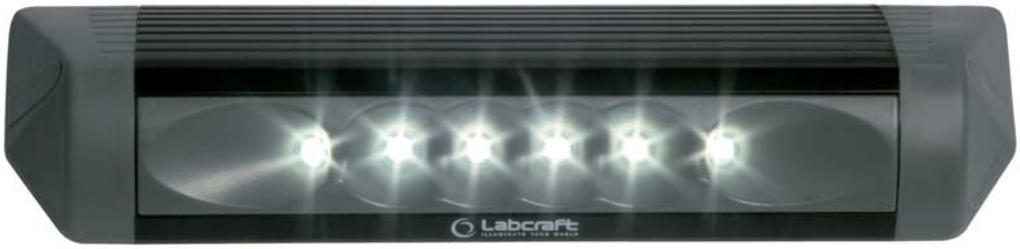
A good LED lighting system will draw about 20% the power of a tungsten system so they can run for 20hours before flattening an average battery rather than 4. Even if a tungsten system is only used for an hour at a time, the battery can be drained by up to 25% and this cycling will cause real damage and ultimately effect reliability.

If you are looking at a budget for new a vehicle, make sure the details of your interior lighting are not overlooked – it could cost you more than you might think. Look out for Lumens/Watt, Lumens/£, and a strong guarantee – oh and if it's a working vehicle, ask for a light test certificate. This way you can ensure the minimum level of 20Lux* is achieved without 'over-specifying'

If you need any help or support with your lighting system, please give us a ring and we will be glad to help.

NEW

LED SCENELITE (SI6)



The new LED Scenelite has been developed primarily for use on emergency vehicle exteriors to illuminate the surrounding area.

What makes this product really different is the superb spread of light produced due to the position and angle that each LED is mounted. All six CREE LED's are first tipped 40 degrees from the mounting surface directing the light towards the ground – and then the outer two are angled outwards at 30 degrees to extend the illuminated area.

Using the very best LED technology from CREE, the Scenelite produces over 1000 lumens (@ 700mA), producing an average of 40lux across an area of 6m^2 from the side of the vehicle. To put this in perspective, in a recent test it outperformed halogen scene lights by four times. The electronic driver will operate comfortably between 10 and 32V and is protected against damaging transient voltage surges. After installation within the main body, the electronics are fully potted with dielectric encapsulation so are completely waterproof.

The maximum power consumption is 18Watts which as you would expect, compares favourably to tungsten products - usually rated at 40W to 50W for this application. This effectively means you get twice as many hours light, or half as many flat batteries!

In addition to emergency vehicles other key applications include; Coupling Area Illumination (for truck/trailers), Tail Lift illumination, Utility Vehicles, Maintenance vehicles (rail road), Refuse collection vehicles, Wheel Chair Lift illumination, Exterior Lighting for temporary buildings and structures.

For more information contact graham@labcraft.co.uk or contact our sales office at the address above.

* Similar costs to current scenelights and no additional fixing housing needed.



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INTERNATIONAL CRICKETER DEBUT'S FOR LABCRAFT

Labcraft are pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Sherry as Leisure Sales Manager. Matthew has previously been in sales roles both in the UK and Spain and will bring a wealth of customer focused experience to the position.

Matthew says "I am delighted to be joining Labcraft at such an exciting time for the company, with the new product developments and the move to the new facility, I believe we will be able to offer an excellent package of products and service to existing and new customers in the Leisure sector."

During his teenage years Matthew was on the staff of Lancashire Cricket Club and in recent times had the distinction of representing Spain at International Cricket.

Justin Stamp Sales Director of Labcraft said "We are delighted to have appointed Matthew; he brings an enthusiasm and drive to the role that epitomises Labcraft's commitment to delivering an unsurpassed level of customer service."

For more information contact matthew@labcraft.co.uk.




Well it's taken 18months and plenty of hard work but finally we have finished renovating and converting the stable block and granary into our new Headquarters. It's very exciting - this will be the first time in over 30 years that all the staff have worked together one site! I expect internal communications will greatly improve and the fantastic team we already have will go from strength to strength.

When we bought the farm in 2006, the stables and granary (Circa 1880) were virtually derelict and had been used for livestock for some years. We were determined to retain as many original features as possible but also wanted to create a creative working environment and to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible. After consultations with planners and energy companies, we decided to opt for a grain-fed furnace linked to underfloor heating, enabling us to grow our own fuel on the farm!

New multi-layer insulation has great e-values but it is very thin which enabled us to insulate all the existing walls and roofs. We have a solar water heating system for the summer months, and we are currently installing a rainwater collection system which will be used to flush toilets. The final piece of the puzzle is a wind generator which we hope to install in the next few years – pending planning applications. *(Nick Luscombe MD)*

Is Your Vehicle Safe This Winter?

Good vehicle maintenance is particularly important in winter to maintain reliability, high performance of service and stay safe on the roads ….. so here are a few vehicle checks you may wish to consider.

- Batteries – ensure these are fully charged and that no additional electrics could drain the battery, e.g. tail lifts, lights.
- Coolant level and anti-freeze amount – ensure the cooling system is full and that there's enough anti-freeze in the system to protect against freezing.
- Defrosting and heating equipment – ensure all equipment is fully functional (don't forget additional heaters such as mirror heaters, battery box heaters, fuel tank heaters etc.).
- Wipers and washers – ensure windscreen wiper blades are in good condition so that they press against the windscreen hard enough to clean the windscreen properly. Ensure the windscreen washers work properly and that there is plenty of washing fluid and anti-freeze in the washer reservoir.
- Tyres – ensure there is enough tread on the tyres to provide enough traction to avoid slipping in wet and icy conditions.
- Lights and reflectors – visibility is very important in bad weather so all lights and reflectors should be cleaned regularly.
- Windows and mirrors – check the windscreen for any chips or cracks and repair/replace if necessary and ensure they are cleaned regularly.
- Hand holds, steps and deck plates – in order to avoid any danger of slipping these areas must be kept clean.
- Exhaust system – exhaust system leaks are especially dangerous when the cab ventilation may be poor (e.g. when windows are closed) and loose connections could allow poisonous carbon monoxide to leak into the vehicle so regular checks should be kept on the exhaust system for loose parts and for sounds and signs of leaks.