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SPOT™ SOFTWARE TOPS LIGHTING INDUSTRY INNOVATION AWARDS

Las Vegas, Nevada -- At the 2008 LightFair® International trade show and conference for architectural and commercial lighting, the Sensor Placement + Optimization Tool, or SPOT™, Version 4.0 software, won the highest honor for the Most Innovative Product of the Year. The software tool, developed by Architectural Energy Corporation (AEC), assists a designer in quantifying the electric lighting and annual daylighting characteristics and energy use of a given space.

The California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program along with Energy Design Resources funded the development of SPOT™ v.4.0. The software tool also won top honors in the Research, Publications, Software, and Unique Applications category.

Judged by an esteemed panel of lighting professionals, SPOT v.4.0 overcame 184 entries to win the architectural and commercial lighting industry's top award. "By taking top honors in an intense competition, this software reflects the growing importance of energy efficiency in our daily lives. The high profile recognition demonstrates how funding energy research is helping to bring smart, efficient lighting tools to the marketplace. The Commission is excited to have helped in its development," said California Energy Commissioner Art Rosenfeld.

Daylighting and electric lighting do not inherently know how to play together in the same space. Add photosensors into the mix without understanding exactly what the sensors see or how the electric lighting responds to the control settings, and the results may be undesirable. SPOT™ v.4.0 bridges the gap, enabling designers to simulate and understand the impact of their designs along with determining proper photosensor selection and placement. Light levels and energy savings may be compared among differing designs for specific geographic locations.

"Designers can use SPOT™ to evaluate the daylight and electric light in a space and a variety of electric lighting control strategies," said Zack Rogers, AEC engineer and developer of the software. "It establishes optimal photosensor system selection, placement, and settings helping to find the best balance between required annual light levels and energy savings," added Rogers.

Released in May, Version 4.0 includes spatial, spectral, and power curves for specific photosensor manufacturers based on the 2007 NLRIP Specifier Report on Photosensors by the Lighting Research Center. The software produces commissioning reports for each photosensor system in use for field implementation. A DOE-2 output function has been added. As a result, the annual electric lighting simulation can be integrated into a whole-building energy analysis. Additionally, SPOT™ v.4.0 includes daylighting metrics for both the USGBC Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) and the Collaborative for High Performance Schools rating systems, calculating compliance with required criteria and generating printable reports. The software uses a Microsoft® Excel platform with a RADIANCE engine, handles top- and side-daylight sources, and models any electric lighting source. To download the software, available at no cost, visit www.archenergy.com/SPOT.

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About Architectural Energy Corporation

Architectural Energy Corporation assists building owners and developers, architects, and engineers to design and maintain energy-efficient, daylit, and sustainable residential, commercial, and institutional buildings. For more information, visit www.archenergy.com.

About California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program

The California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program supports energy research, development and demonstration projects that will help improve the quality of life in California by bringing environmentally safe, affordable, and reliable energy services and products to the marketplace. The California Institute for Energy and the Environment administered the PIER contract funding for SPOT v.4.0 features. For more information, visit www.energy.ca.gov/pier/buildings/.

About Energy Design Resources

Energy Design Resources, administered by Southern California Edison, supported SPOT v.4.0 enhancements. For more information, visit www.energydesignresources.com.

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