

PRESS RELEASE

Tridonic simplifies luminaire production with NFC technology

Fast driver programming with near-field communication

Dornbirn, 26 March 2019. **Contactless data transfer using Near Field Communication (NFC) is becoming increasingly popular in luminaire production, as programming driver settings using NFC provides significant time savings. With its own NFC-compatible software package companionSUITE and LED drivers with NFC interface, Tridonic is making it easier to switch to this pioneering technology.**

NFC is wider known as the contactless payment option in shops and other retail outlets. However, contactless data transfer via NFC is also used in many other areas – with more being added all the time. Thanks to the integration of NFC interfaces in LED drivers, contactless data transfer is now more often finding its way into luminaire production, too. The correct settings can be transmitted wirelessly to LED drivers with an integrated NFC interface within a few seconds – saving valuable time and reducing production costs.

NFC: cutting-edge technology

To be able to use NFC in the manufacture of luminaires, only one NFC antenna is required in the production area. NFC antennas are available as handheld devices and as NFC interfaces, which can also be installed directly on workbenches. NFC antennas transmit data via electromagnetic induction to receivers located in the immediate vicinity – in the case of luminaire production, to drivers that are to be programmed with configuration data. For example, the output current, the automatic switch-off of the luminaire via corridorFUNCTION or the dimming level on the driver can be programmed.

companionSUITE supports contactless data transfer

Since 2017, Tridonic's companionSUITE software package has been available as a web-based tool for creating driver settings, programming LED drivers in production and, more recently, for analysing drivers of returned luminaires. This software package is compatible with common driver interfaces such as DALI, DALI-2, one4all and now NFC. Unlike the current standard interfaces, NFC enables the contactless transfer of the driver settings as the driver no longer needs to be connected to the transmission device using a cable. In addition, data

transfer does not require a power supply, which means that no measures have to be taken to protect against accidental contact. The new multi-programming function adds another advantage: using NFC, up to 20 drivers can be programmed contactlessly at the same time, making considerable savings in production time. Tridonic is thus helping to alleviate a critical bottleneck in production because, in the past, each driver had to be handled, connected and programmed individually.

Portfolio of NFC-enabled drivers growing steadily

In addition to NFC-enabled software, Tridonic also offers an extensive portfolio of LED drivers with NFC interfaces. For example, the new portfolio of LED drivers for outdoor and industrial applications is already available with NFC interfaces. LED drivers in other protection classes and designs will also be gradually upgraded to include an NFC interface. In Tridonic's current portfolio, the following LED drivers are compatible for programming via NFC:

- _ Compact fixed-output drivers in an in-track design: LC 25 W 350–600 mA flexC NFC T EXC and LC 40 W 500–1050 mA flexC NFC T EXC
- _ Compact dimmable drivers for outdoor and industrial applications in the excite and advanced series: LCO 14 W 100–500 mA one4all NFC C EXC3, LCO 14/24/10/60 W 200–1050 mA one4all NFC C EXC3, LCO 14 W 100–500 mA NFC C ADV3, LCO 24/40/60 W 200–1050 mA NFC C ADV3
- _ Dimmable drivers for linear and area luminaires in the premium series as non-SELV devices: LC 50/75 W 100–400 mA 140 V po4a NFC h16 PRE3, LC 50/75 W 100–400 mA 140 V o4a NFC h11 PRE3

“NFC has now become standard in the lighting industry, too. That's why we have added LED drivers with NFC interfaces for different applications to our portfolio. We will also gradually bring our portfolio of drivers up to this new standard and equip new products with NFC interfaces,” explains Thomas Ölz, Vice President Product Management at Tridonic.

NFC: technology with great development potential

“The immediate advantages of programming LED drivers via the NFC interface, which enables the contactless connection of software and hardware, are obvious: Since a cable no longer has to be connected to the driver and several drivers or even entire packaging units can be programmed at once, time can be saved in this production step. But NFC has other advantages. For example, the driver settings can be quickly read and checked by attaching the device to the antenna, which facilitates quality checking or error analysis,” says Klaus Mohr, Product Manager Lighting Controls at Tridonic.

Image 1: Demonstration of the steps in the companionSUITE (screenshots)

Image caption: Tridonic's companionSUITE software now also supports wireless programming via NFC in addition to the existing DALI and one4all standards.

Image 2: Product images of NFC-enabled drivers

Image caption: Many LED drivers from Tridonic are already equipped with an NFC interface.

Press contact

Silvana Kegele
Tridonic GmbH & Co KG
Phone: +43 5572 395 – 45109
silvana.kegele@tridonic.com

Markus Rademacher
Tridonic GmbH & Co KG
Phone: +43 5572 395 – 45236
markus.rademacher@tridonic.com

About Tridonic

Tridonic is a world-leading supplier of lighting technology, supporting its customers with intelligent hardware and software and offering the highest level of quality, reliability and energy savings. As a global driver of innovation in the field of lighting-based network technology, Tridonic develops scalable, future-oriented solutions that enable new business models for lighting manufacturers, building managers, systems integrators, planners and many other types of customer.

To promote the vision of the "Internet of Light", Tridonic relies on partnerships with other specialists. The goal is the joint development of innovative technological solutions that convert lighting systems into intelligent networks and thereby enable associated services. Its profound, technical industry expertise makes Tridonic an ideal partner for established brands and for newcomers to the market.

Tridonic is the technology company of the Zumtobel Group and is headquartered in Dornbirn, Austria. In the 2017/18 tax year, Tridonic generated sales of € 352.7 million. 1,690 highly skilled employees and a worldwide sales presence in over 50 countries provide the basis for developing and launching new, smart and connected lighting systems.

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