

PRESS RELEASE

The Smart Way to Protect the Night Sky

Interoperable smart street lighting systems provide a toolkit to reduce the adverse effects of ALAN and increase energy efficiency

Piscataway, NJ, USA – June 18, 2026 – The TALQ Consortium, which developed the Smart City Protocol, a global interface standard for smart city applications, just published a white paper on how to manage artificial light at night (ALAN) better. While outdoor lighting remains essential for safety, mobility, and economic activity in urban areas, growing evidence shows that excessive or poorly managed lighting can have unintended consequences. Implementing interoperable smart street lighting solutions helps cities to introduce adaptive lighting strategies and adjust lighting levels flexibly based on real-time needs. In parallel these intelligent systems allow cities to reduce energy consumption and increase overall urban efficiency.



Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) is an increasingly recognised challenge for cities worldwide. A growing number of cities and municipalities are therefore re-evaluating how outdoor lighting is planned, operated, and integrated into broader urban systems. In parallel to the

importance of social safety, cities evaluate how protect better affected ecosystems and biodiversity and to reduce energy waste and emissions. The basic question is how to dispense light more intelligently: providing (only) the right light, at the right place, at the right time.

The recently published white paper 'Managing Artificial Light at Night (ALAN)' explains how outdoor lighting control systems can help to reduce negative aspects of ALAN. Furthermore, it gives guidance for cities, utilities and other stakeholders on how to integrate reasoned ALAN concepts into urban planning and policy.

“With our latest paper we aim to support cities in finding flexible solutions to address the contradictory needs for public safety, protecting nature and acting in a sustainable and responsible way. Dynamic dimming and the variation of the light spectrum are only two examples out of a large bundle of options offered by smart adaptive lighting solutions. It makes us proud that the TALQ Standard interface helps to achieve various goals of ambitious smart cities.” comments Simon Dunkley, Secretary General of the TALQ Consortium, on the publication.

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About the TALQ Consortium: Founded in 2012, the TALQ Consortium has established a globally accepted standard for management software interfaces to control and monitor heterogeneous smart city applications. The TALQ Smart City Protocol is a specification for information exchange, suitable for implementation in various products and systems. This way interoperability between Central Management Software (CMS) and Outdoor Device Networks (ODN) from different vendors is enabled.

Thanks to the TALQ protocol standard cities and municipalities can rely on a broad choice of interoperable systems and avoid vendor-lock-in when investing in smart city applications, such as Smart Street Lighting, Waste Management, Environmental Sensing, Parking, or Traffic Control. TALQ is an open industry consortium currently consisting of more than 80 member companies. For more information visit www.talq-consortium.org

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