



Lighting control with KNX & DALI

Practical knowledge for Planning and Integration

Frederick Riedel & Karim Bou Diab 19.11.25

» We are
your
speakers
today!



Frederik Riedel

- Head and Trainer in Technical Service at Elsner Elektronik GmbH
- Support, Product Advice



Karim Bou Diab

- Application Engineer
- KNX & product applications support

Intro

| Intelligent lighting solutions for comfort and atmosphere



- Have you ever noticed how cosy, amber-coloured lighting relaxes you?
- Or how a bright white light makes you alert?
- Now, imagine you could control your surroundings at the touch of a button.

Learning Objectives

| After this webinar, you will be able to

- ✓ Apply DALI fundamentals correctly
- ✓ Plan lightings effectively
- ✓ Save energy through automation
- ✓ Implement functions with DALI in practice



AGENDA

1. Basics of DALI & DALI-2
2. Energy savings with automation
3. Constant light control & lighting design
4. Product overview
5. Commissioning & configuration
6. Applications & practical examples
7. Troubleshooting in DALI



01 | Basics of DALI & DALI-2



Why should you use a DALI system?

| Here are a few reasons:

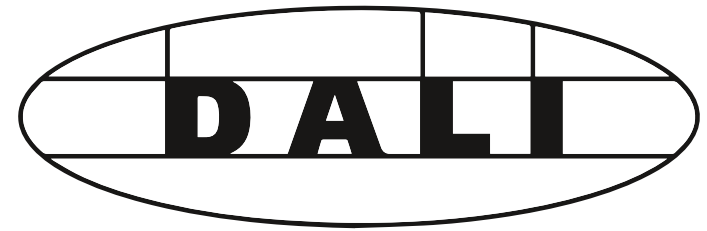
- Create a feel-good atmosphere
- Save energy
- Individual lighting control
- Scalability (hotels, industry)
- Flexibility



What is DALI today?

| Overview

- DALI = Digital Addressable Lighting Interface
- Internationally standardised bus system for lighting control (IEC 62386)
- Communication between control devices (e.g. sensors, buttons, gateways) and operating devices (e.g. ECGs, LED drivers)
- Two-wire bus cable, polarity-independent, in addition to mains voltage
- Flexible & manufacturer-independent (especially with DALI-2 certified)



Digital Addressable Lighting Interface

DALI-1

| Overview



- DALI = Digital Addressable Lighting Interface
 - Internationally standardised bus system for lighting control (IEC 62386)
 - Communication between **control devices** (e.g. sensors, buttons, gateways) and **operating devices** (e.g. ECGs, LED drivers)
 - Two-wire bus cable, polarity-independent, in addition to mains voltage
 - Flexible & manufacturer-independent
- defined by manufacturers



DALI-2

| Overview



- Extended & refined standard (IEC 62386, DiiA certification)
 - Uniform interoperability between manufacturers
 - Control devices (buttons, sensors) can also be integrated
 - Expansion of Multimaster capability
 - Quality standard achieved
 - Backward compatible
- Certified by the DiiA - Digital Illumination Interface Alliance



Features of DALI control gear

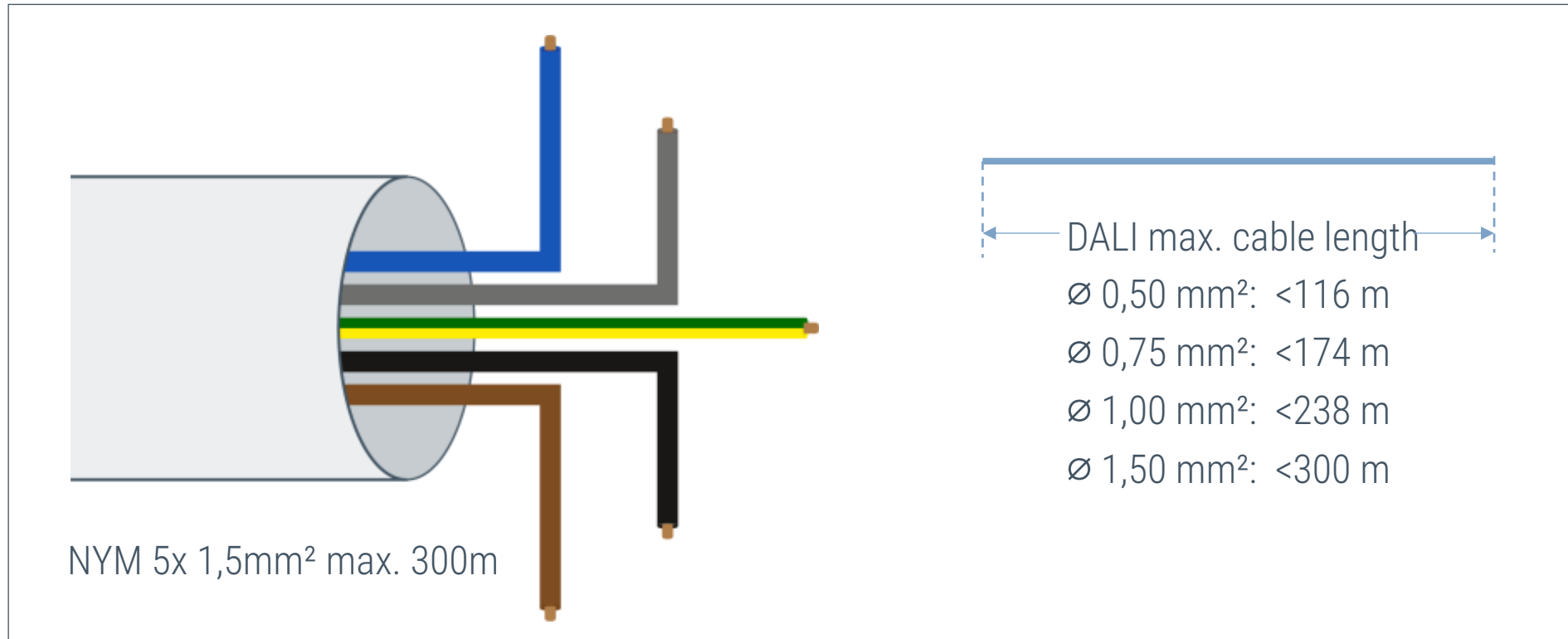
| Technical Standard Data

- Standardised digital interface according to IEC 62386
- Two-wire bus cable, no polarity → easy installation
- Addressable (single, group, broadcast)
- Scene control (up to 16 scenes can be stored)
- Status feedback (e.g. lamp failure, operating status)
- Compatible with various control devices (buttons, sensors, gateways) (especially DALI-2)
- Cross-manufacturer interoperability (especially DALI-2)



DALI-Installation

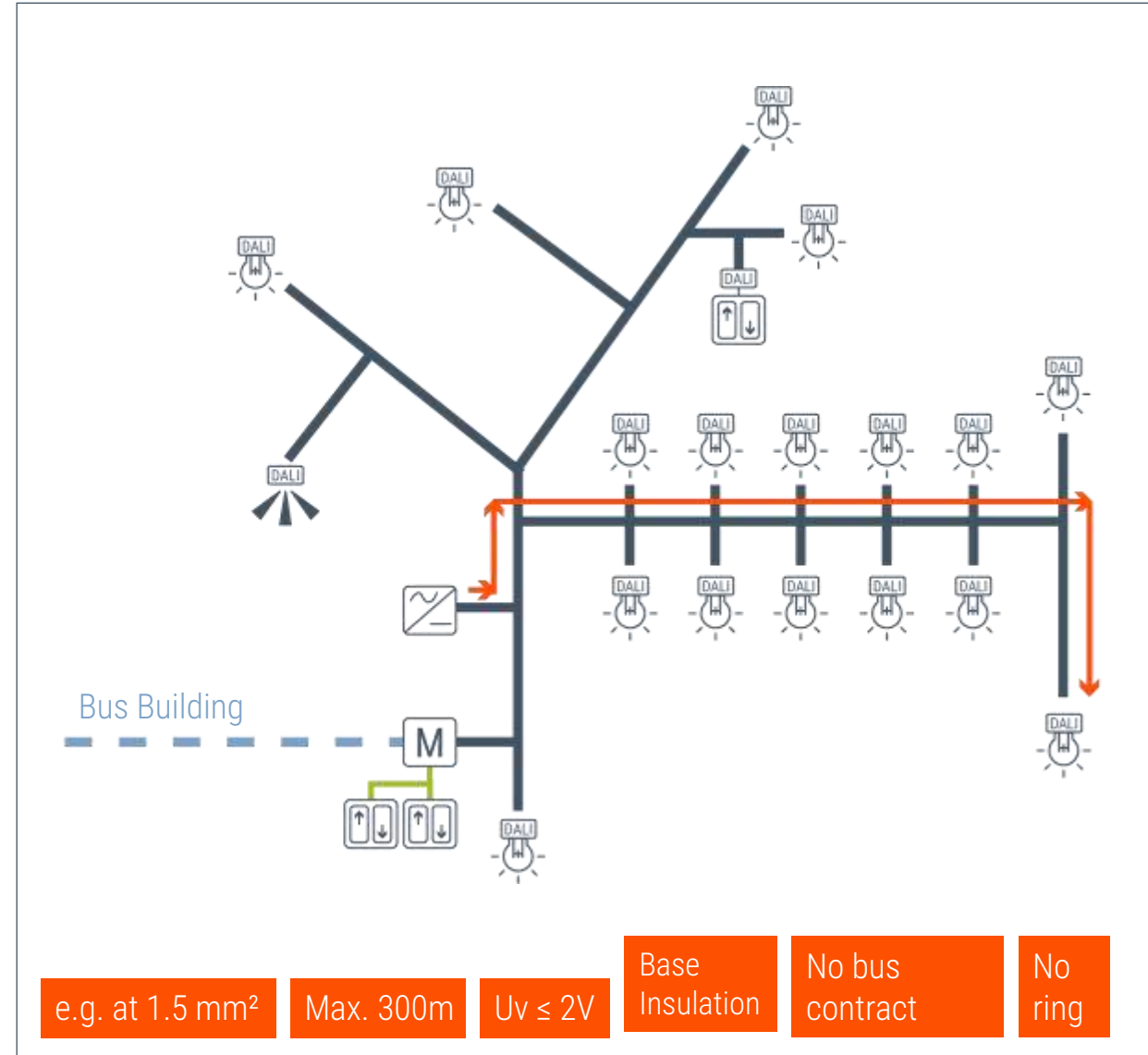
| Cable selection & Cable length



DALI-Bus Structure

| Summary

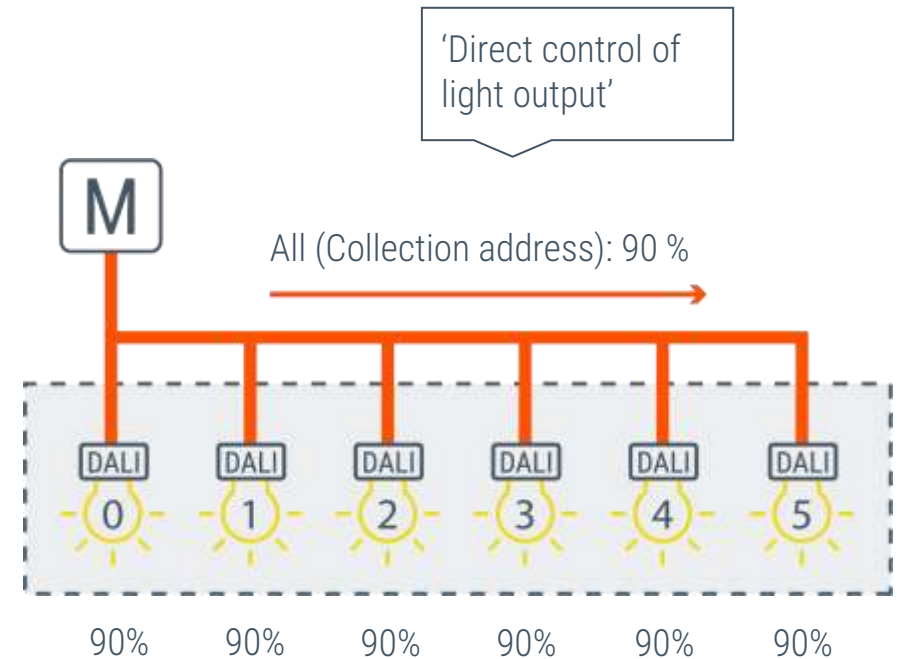
- A DALI-Line consists of
 - max. 64 Operating devices (ECG, LED drivers, etc.)
 - max. 64 Control units (Buttons, sensors, gateways) (Elsner DALI L1/L2 sec max. 32)
 - The bus is usually polarity-independent.
- Voltage range: 7V-22,5V, typically 16V-20V
- One DALI power supply per line recommended
- Topology (line, star, tree)



DALI-Broadcast

| Means all are addressed

- Simultaneous control of all devices on a DALI line
- No addressing required → quick commissioning
- Ideal for simple applications (e.g. corridors, stairwells, warehouses)
- No group or scene assignment necessary
- All operating devices respond identically to broadcast commands.



Example

| For broadcast

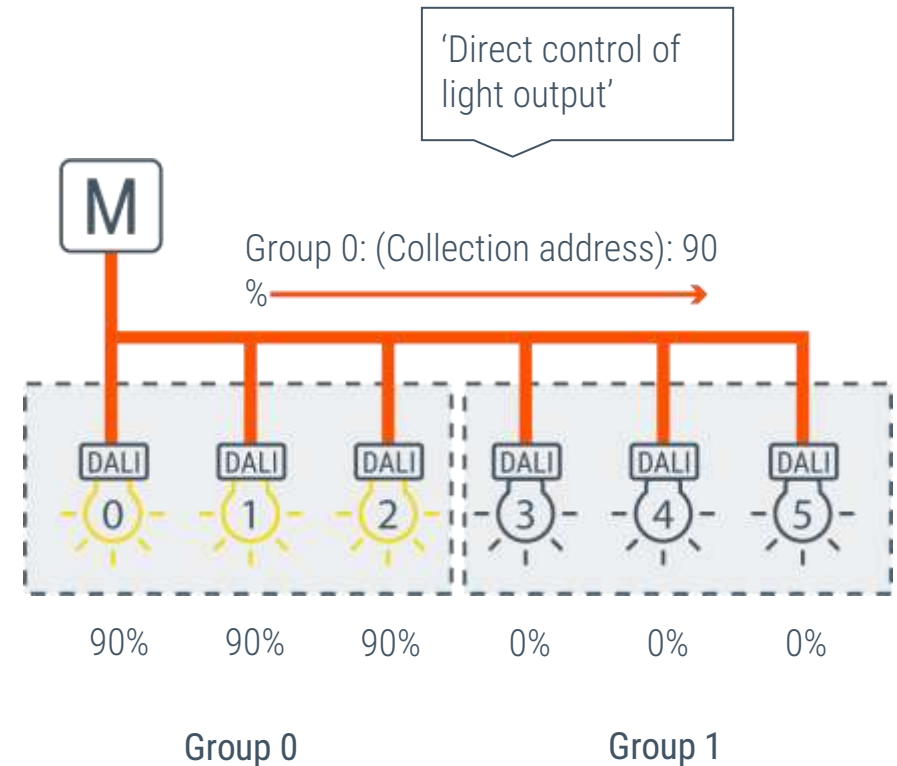
- Street lighting
 - Industrial buildings
 - Sports halls
- large-scale lighting systems (typical)



DALI-Multicast

| Means group control

- Addressing specific device groups within a DALI line
- Supports dimming, switching, scene recall per group
- More flexible than broadcast, as only all devices in a group respond
- Feedback possible: Devices can report status or errors
- Ideal for rooms, areas or groups of lights within a DALI system



DALI-Multimaster

| Summary

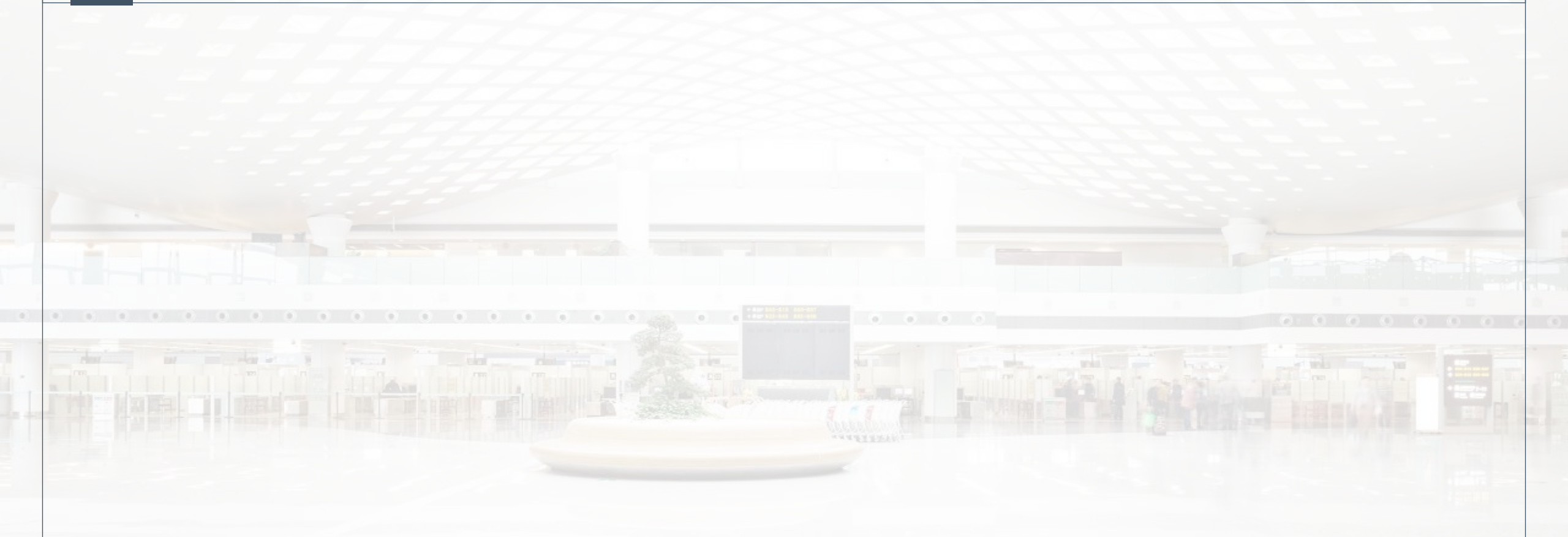


- Multiple control units (masters) possible on the same DALI line
- Each control unit can send commands → no fixed hierarchy
- Coordination via bus protocol → collisions are avoided
- Increased flexibility: e.g. buttons, sensors or gateways active simultaneously
- Status feedback from operating devices is read by all masters.
- Fault tolerance: Failure of a master does not affect control of the line.



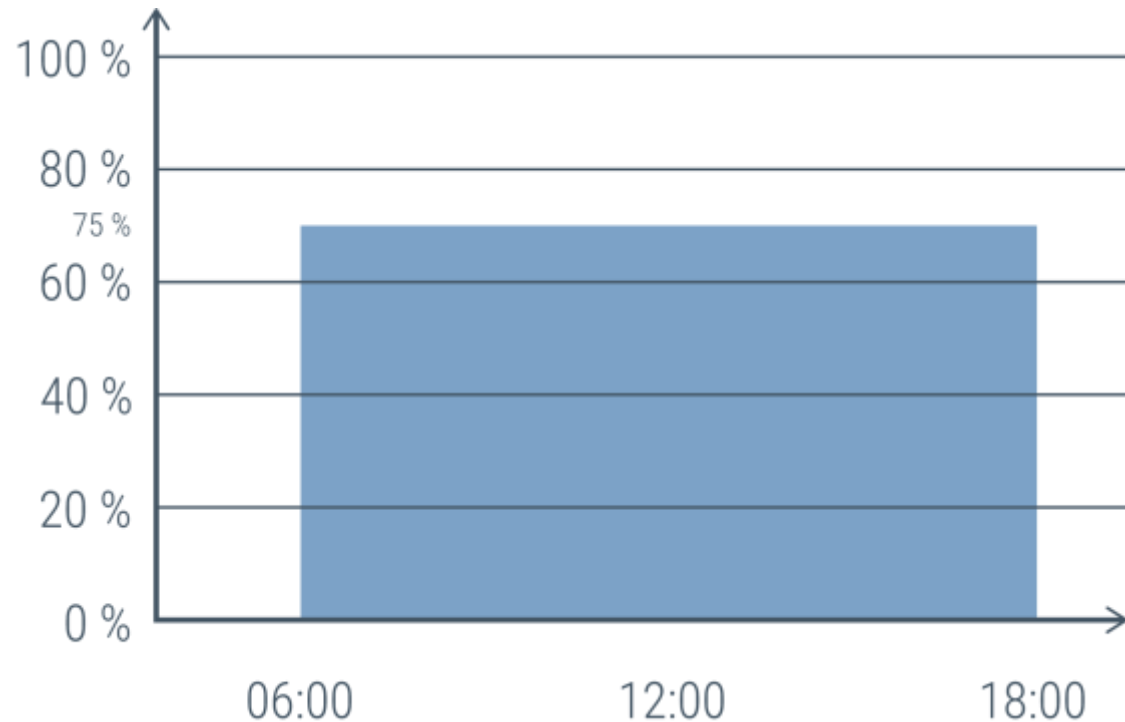
| Do you have any questions
about the basics of DALI?

02 | Energy savings with automation



From standard to demand-based lighting control: saving energy made easy

| Standard use: Manual switching on and off of the lighting



Luminaires and light sources

- Manual on/off switch

Typical scenario

- On in the morning / Off in the evening
- No consideration of presence and shading

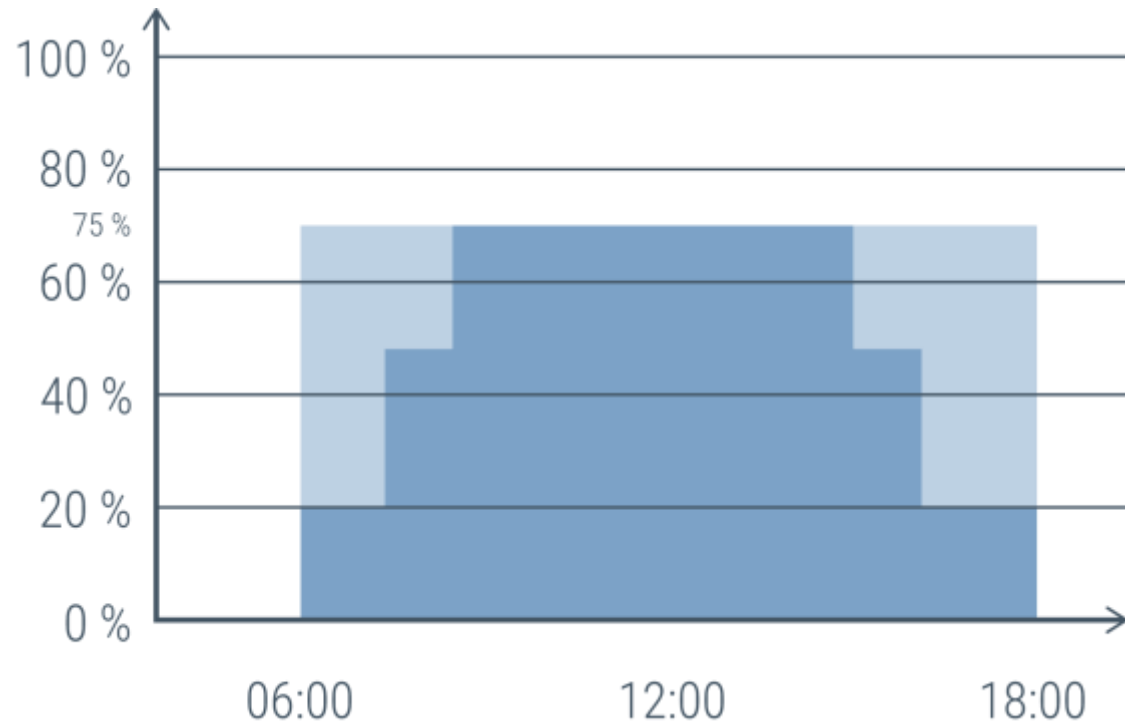
Conclusion

- The lighting is switched on for 12 hours without regulation.

Underlying asset: 100%

From standard to demand-based lighting control: saving energy made easy

| Simple automation: group and time-controlled switching of lighting



Luminaires and light sources

- Groups and time-controlled switching on/off

Typical scenario

- Rigid attitude
- No consideration of presence or daylight

Conclusion

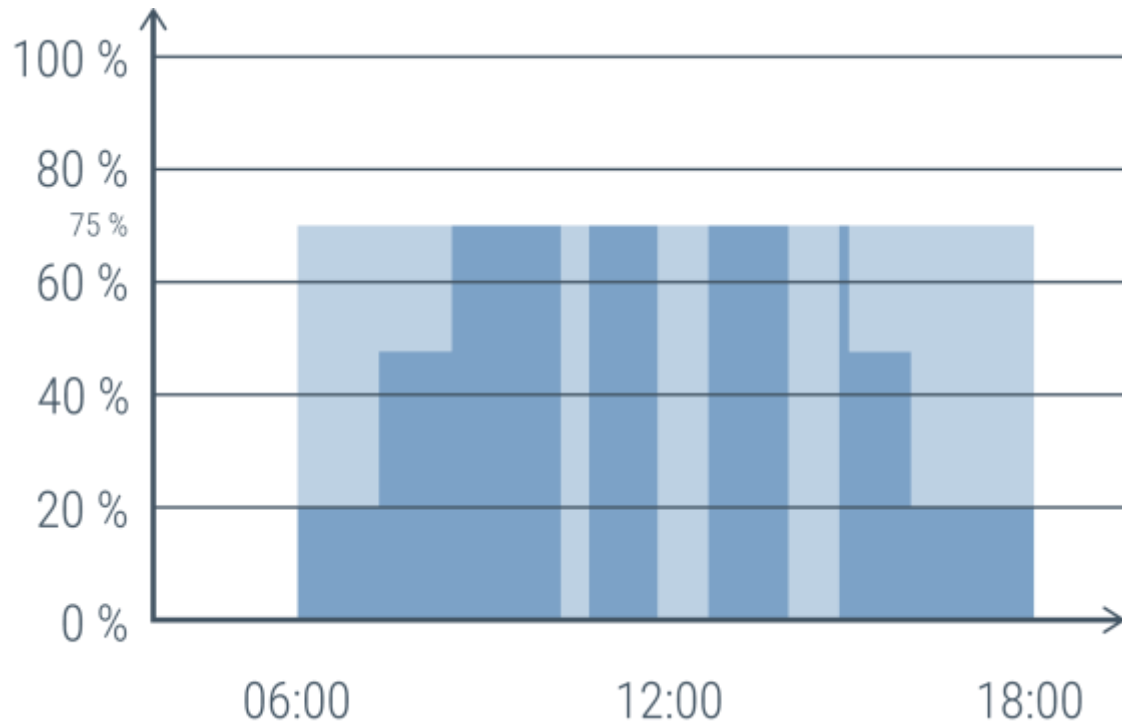
- The lighting is switched on and off in a rigid manner.

Savings

- ~ 30 % compared to base

From standard to demand-based lighting control: saving energy made easy

| Advanced automation: Presence-dependent control combined with time-controlled switching



Luminaires and light sources

- Presence-dependent and time-controlled switching on/off of groups

Typical scenario

- Rigid setting of times
- No consideration of daylight

Conclusion

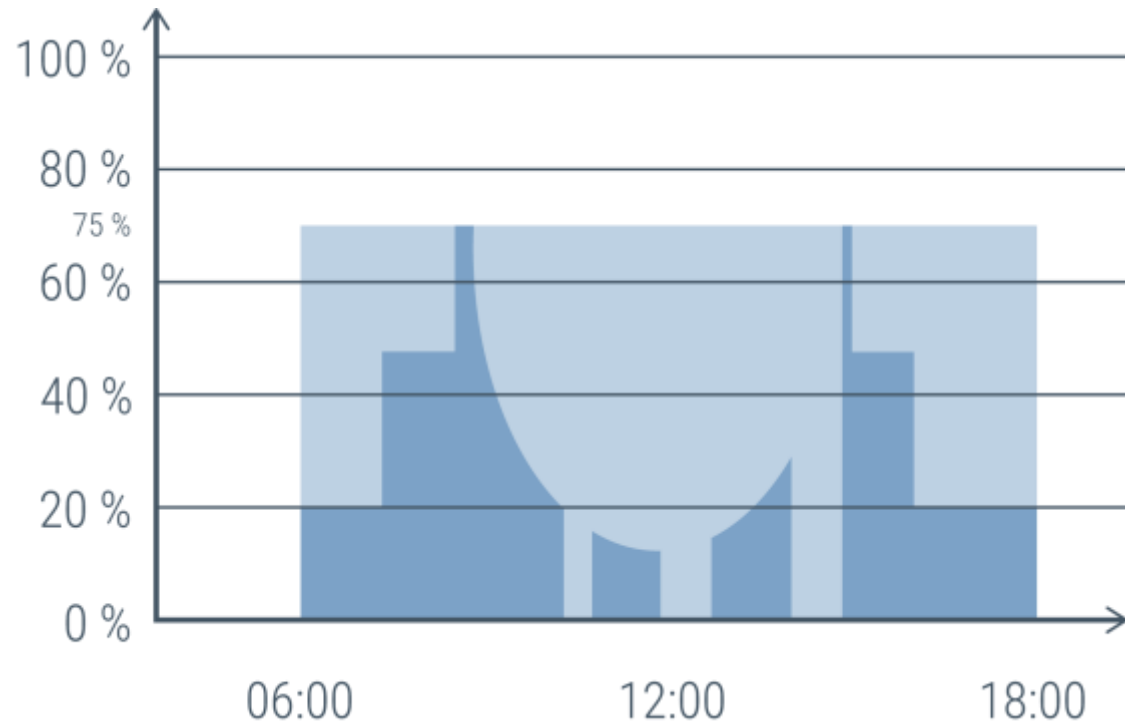
- The lighting is controlled rigidly.

Savings

- ~ 50 % compared to base

From standard to demand-based lighting control: saving energy made easy

| Optimal automation: presence, time control and daylight-dependent control



Luminaires and light sources

- Presence-dependent, time-controlled & daylight-dependent control

Typical scenario

- Rigid setting of times

Conclusion

- The illuminance is regulated depending on daylight.

Savings

- ~ 65 % compared to base



| Do you have any questions
about energy saving or
automation?

03 | Constant light control and lighting design

DALI - constant light control

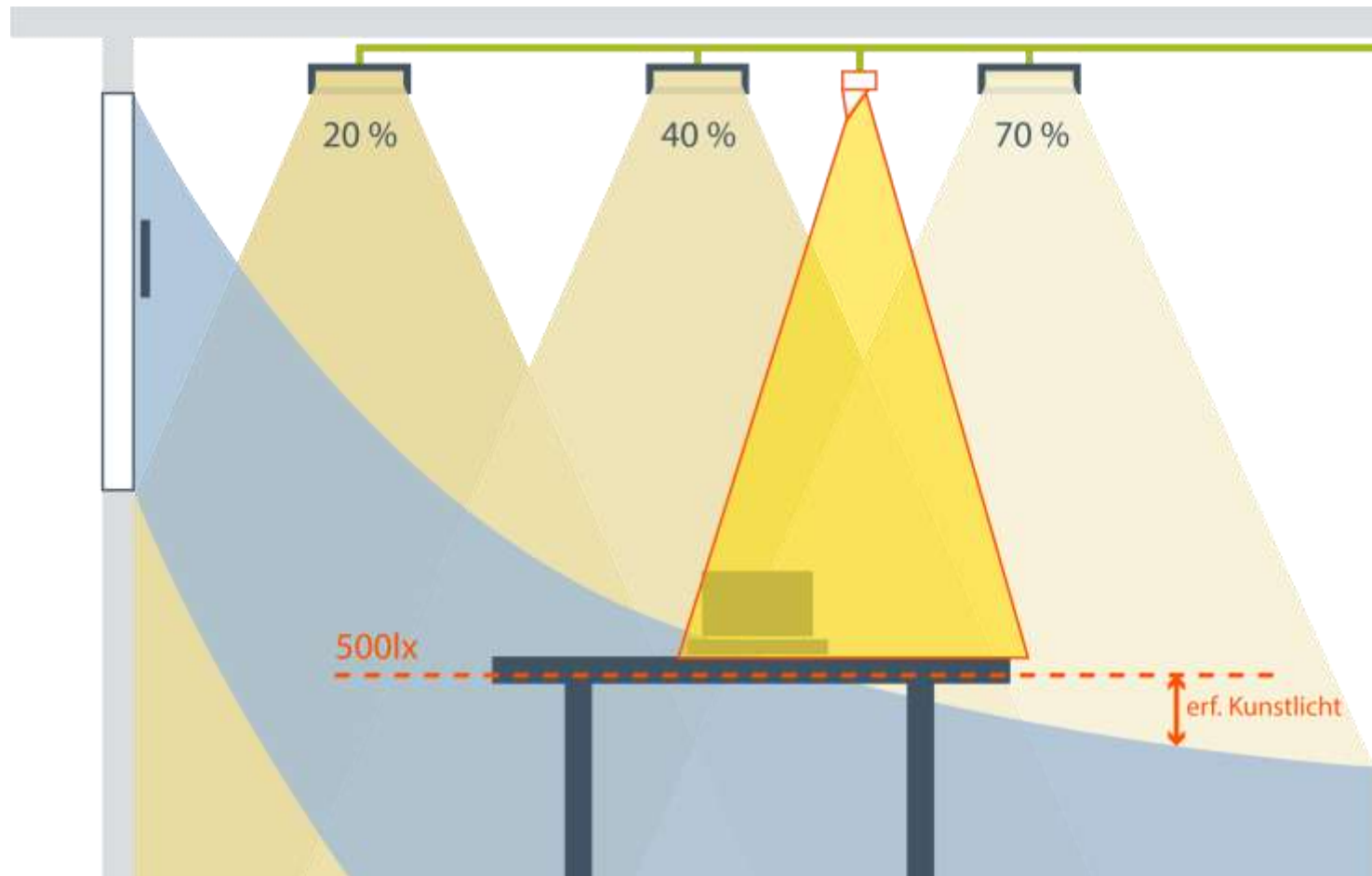
| With brightness/presence detector

- Brightness is automatically adjusted to the room conditions, e.g. natural lighting/daylight
- Sensors measure brightness at the workplace or in the room
- Energy saving: lighting is only operated as brightly as necessary
- Optimally automated in combination with presence detectors



DALI - constant light control

| Example



DALI - constant light control

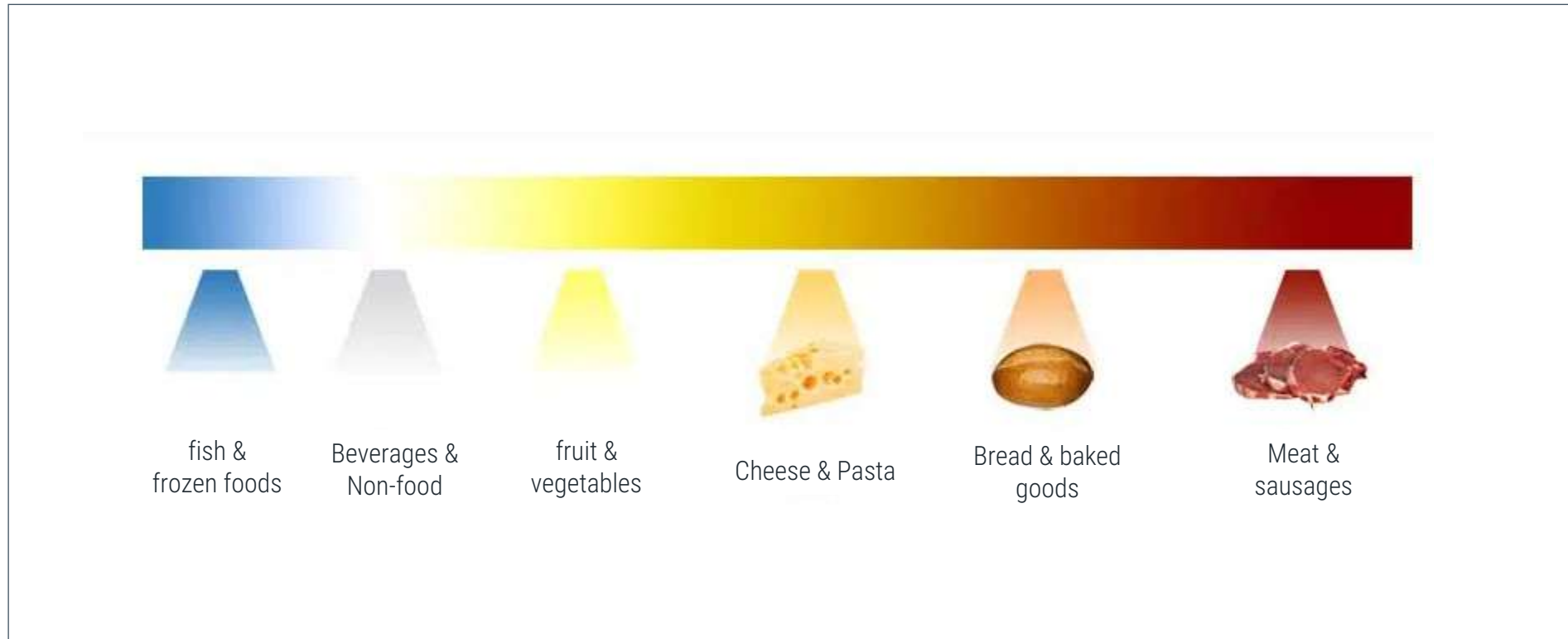
| Important to note



- Room characteristics must not be changed without adjusting the settings (e.g. moving tables or reflective objects in the room).
- Do not mount the sensor directly on a natural light source/window.
- The surface beneath the sensor must be reflective.
- Dark surfaces reflect very little, so they are not suitable.
- Shield the sensor from daylight or external artificial light.

DALI – Lighting design

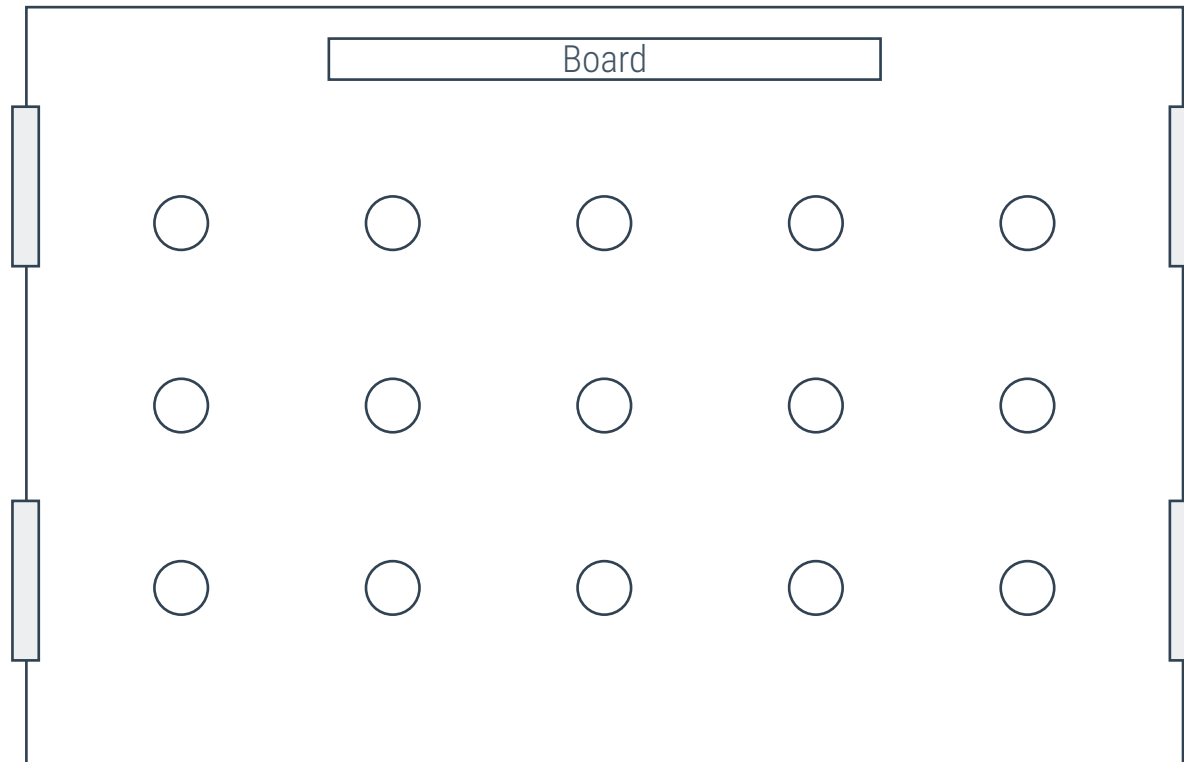
| Example



Quelle: <https://www.saxonia-licht.de/led-beleuchtung-fuer-den-lebensmittelhandel/>

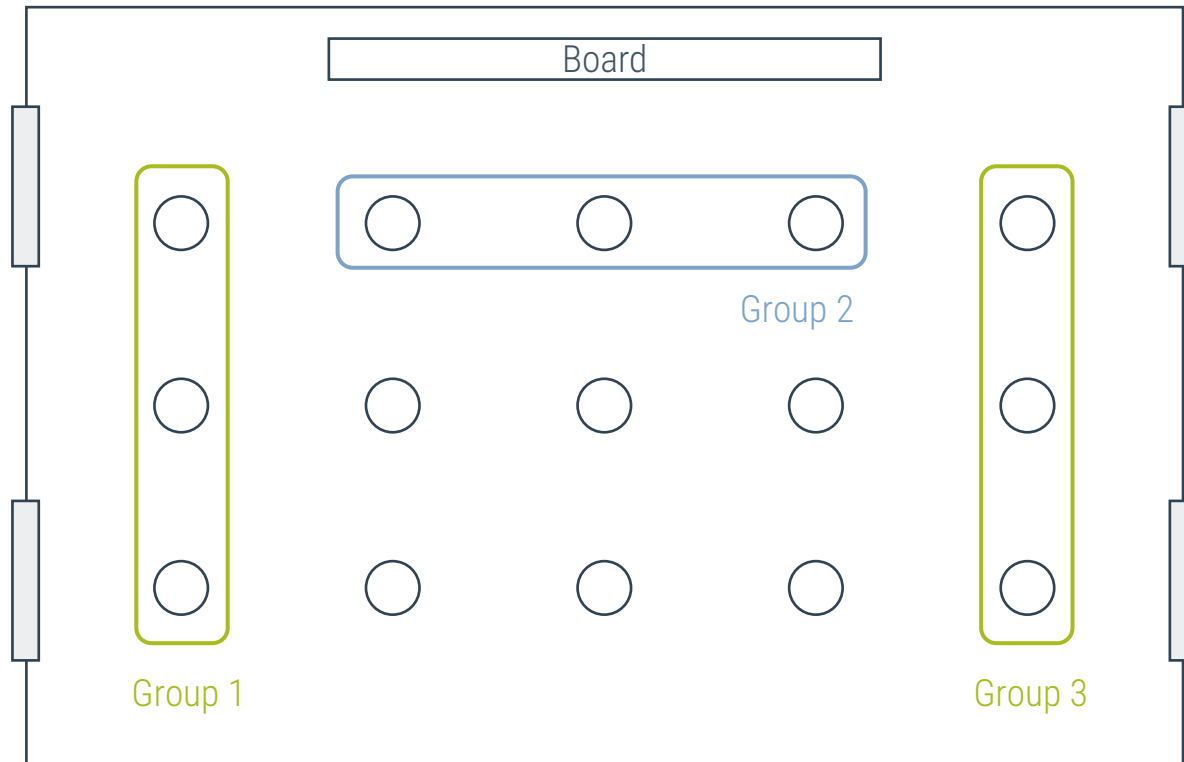
DALI – Lighting design

| Overview



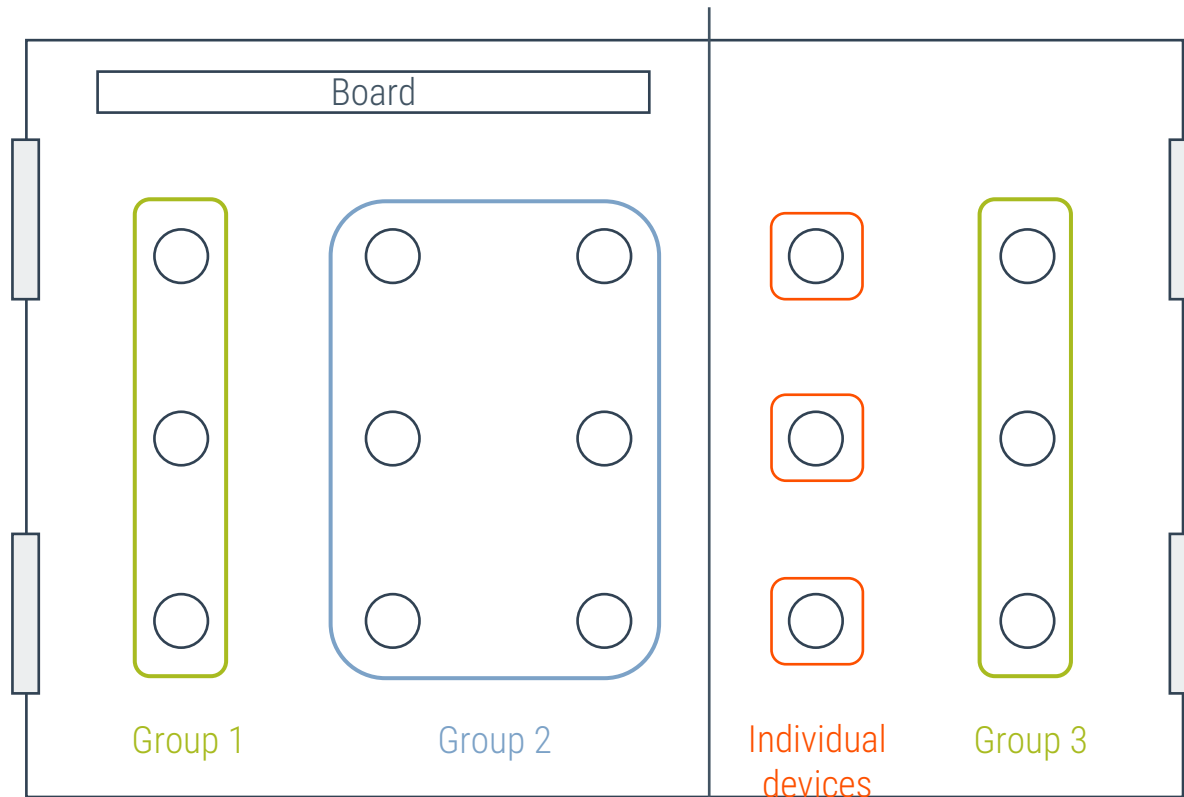
DALI - Lighting design

| Create groups



DALI - Lighting design

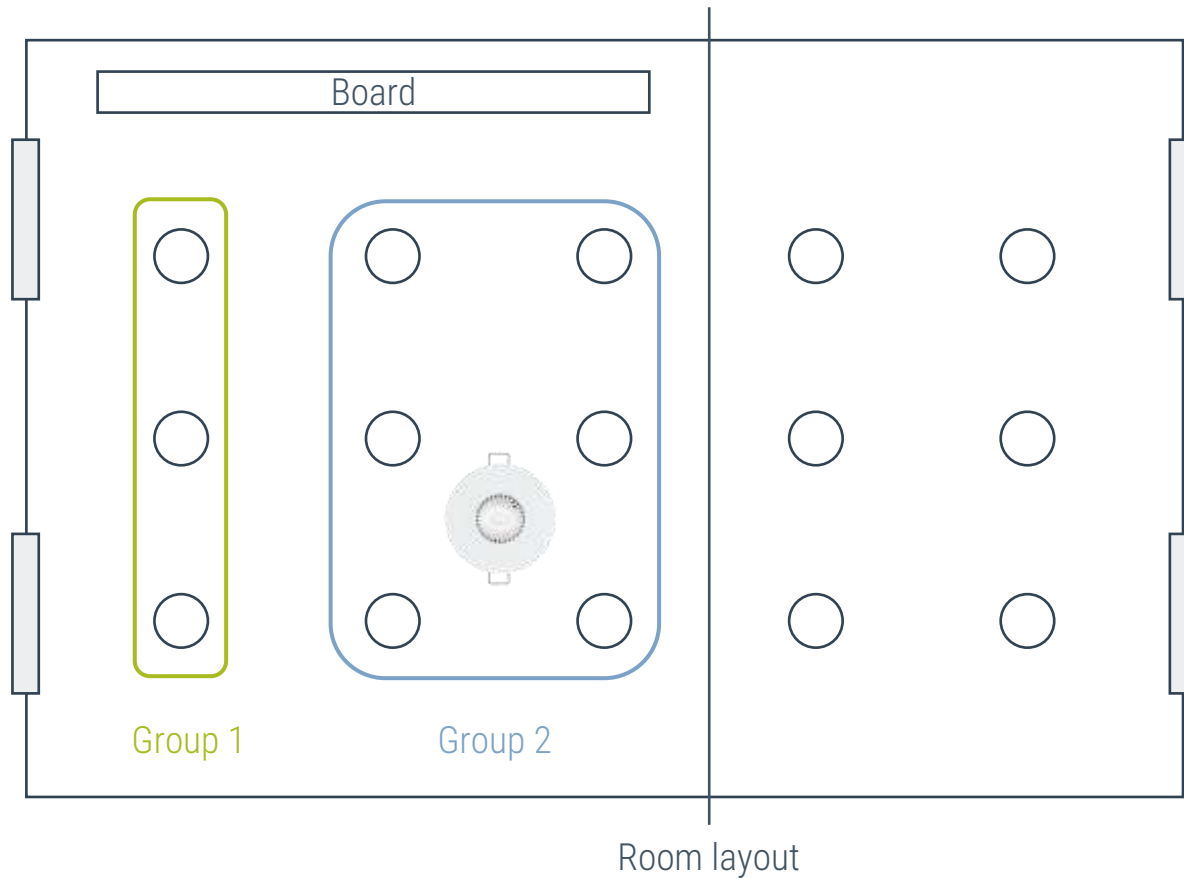
| Redistribution



R
Room layout

DALI - Lighting design

| Integrate sensor



| Do you have any questions
about constant light control
and lighting design?

04 | Product Overview



KNX-DALI-Interfaces

| Overview



KNX DALI L1 ind/gr/bc sec

- 1 DALI system connection
- 1 x 64 operating devices

KNX DALI L1 ind/gr/bc sec in the
Online Shop ►



KNX DALI L2 ind/gr/bc sec

- 2 DALI system connections
- 2 x 64 operating devices

KNX DALI L2 ind/gr/bc sec in the
Online Shop ►

KNX DALI L1/L2 ind/gr/bc sec

| KNX-DALI-Interfaces

- Interface between KNX bus and DALI lighting
- 1-2 DALI lines, each with up to 64 participants + 32 sensors
- Broadcast, groups, individual control
- DT8 support: colour temperature & colour control with limit values
- Device has KNX Secure

KNX DALI L1 ind/gr/bc sec in the
Online Shop ►



Intra-Sewi KNX TH-L-Pr

| Built-in presence, brightness and room climate sensor

- Presence detector/motion detector/light sensor
- Constant light control for optimum use of daylight
- Combined sensor with room temperature controller
- Award-winning design with glass surface
- For ceiling installation

Intra-Sewi KNX TH-L-Pr
in the Online Shop ►



| Do you have any questions
about our products?



05 | Commissioning & Configuration

Commissioning

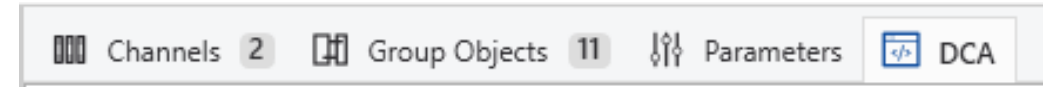
| Procedure



Device Configuration App (DCA) >>

| DALI-setup

- Full DALI commissioning not possible with pure ETS5/6 application
- Additional tool required for DALI setup
- DCA directly available in ETS
- Broadcast function can also be used without DCA
- Easy configuration of DALI devices
- Monitoring & Diagnosis



Device Configuration App (DCA)

| DALI-setup



DALI test

Export/import

Documentation

Help



DALI sensor commissioning

DALI sensor commissioning is required to put the DALI control devices (sensors) installed in the system into operation. Carry out the assignment to the configured sensors. It should be noted that a DALI commissioning can only be carried out completely if the ETS has a functioning programming connection to the KNX installation and the DALI installation is switched on and ready for operation.

To DALI sensor commissioning



DALI test

The DALI test helps you to test a commissioned DALI system for correct functioning. You can control groups and individual devices and influence the switching state and brightness. In addition, it is possible to perform colour temperature or colour control and to test scenes. Just like the DALI commissioning, a DALI test can only be carried out if the ETS has a programming connection to the KNX installation and the DALI installation is switched on and ready for operation. In addition, the ETS application program must have been programmed with the ETS beforehand.

To DALI test



Export/import

You can use the export/import function to save the existing parameterisation in an XML file and restore it if necessary. With an export, all parameters and the DALI commissioning parameters are saved in a file. By means of an import, all contents of an exported file can be read into the application program of the previously exported DALI Gateway or of another DALI Gateway of the same type. This makes it easy to transfer a complete configuration or a configuration template to a new project.

To Export/import



Documentation

Elsner Elektronik

19.11.2025

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DCA/Application in ETS

| Parameter



We will now show you live how you can configure the device.



| Do you have any questions
about commissioning and
configuration?

06 | Applications & Practical examples



Areas of application

| Overview

- Offices & Administration
- Educational Institutions
- Retail Trade
- Hotels & Catering
- Residential Buildings/Smart Homes
- Industry & Production
- Public buildings & Outdoor areas



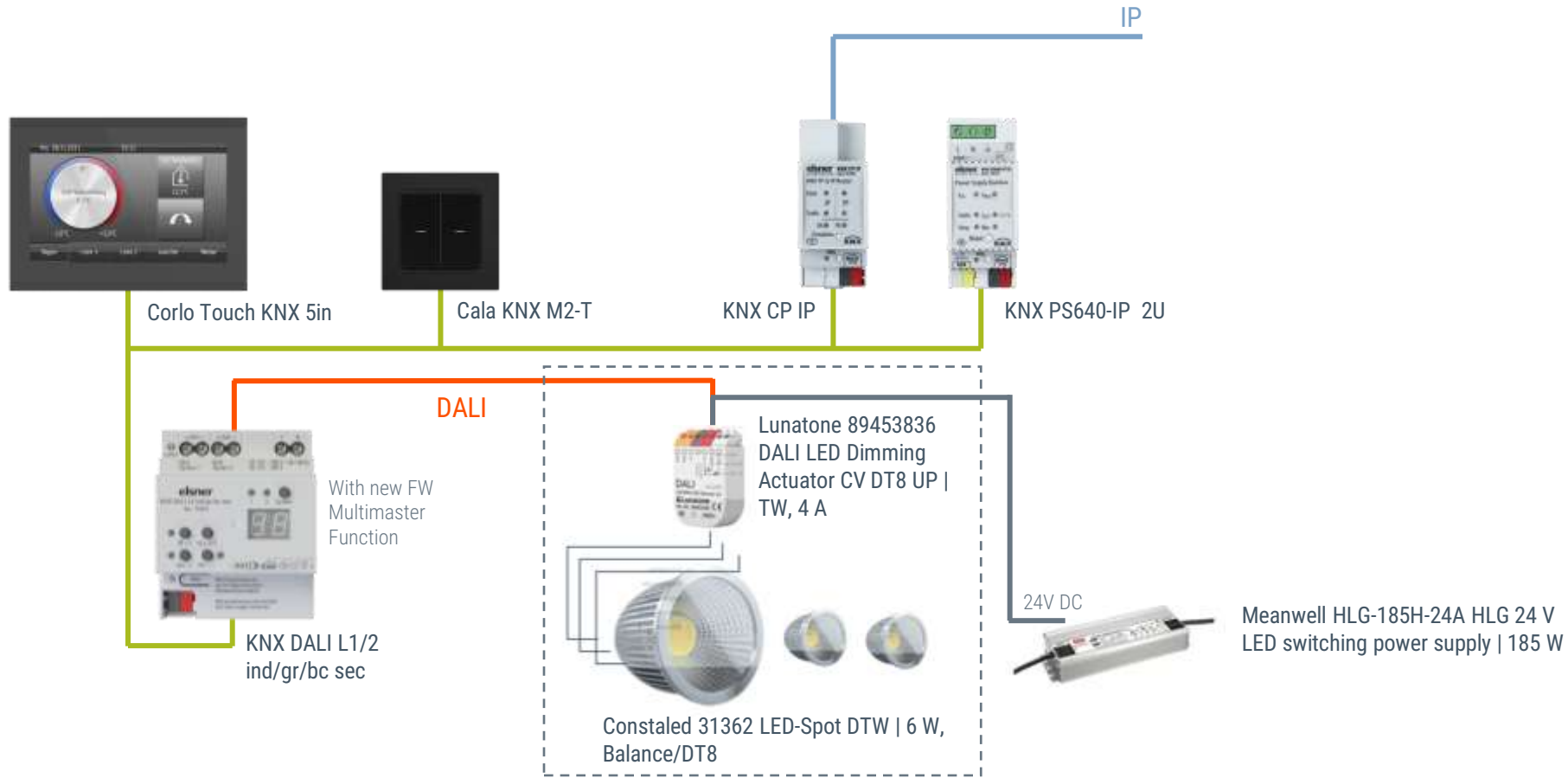
Status message on KNX bus

| Practical advantages

- 
- Lamp failure can be reported via KNX bus
 - Caretaker/technician receives the information directly on their visualisation
 - No individual testing of each lamp necessary
 - Time savings & improved planning possible

KNX-DALI lighting control

| TW Application



DCA/Application in ETS

| Parameter



We will now show you live how you can configure the device.

| Do you have any questions
about the applications?



07 | Troubleshooting in DALI

A modern office interior with large windows, curved seating, and a potted plant. The image is faded and serves as a background for the title.

Error case status output

| In Elsner KNX DALI L1/L2 sec



- DALI system error
- Errors per DALI operating device
- Errors per DALI group / individual device

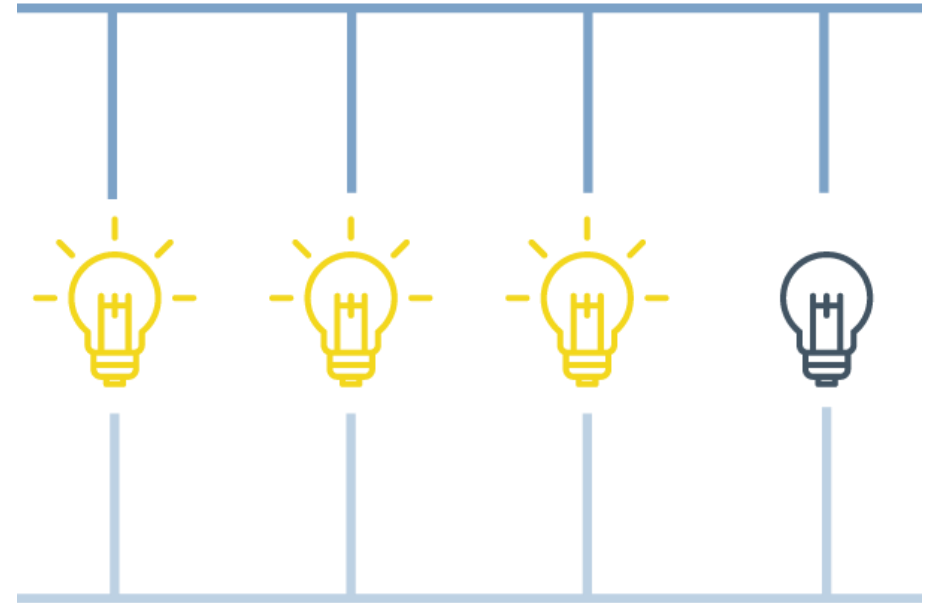
Error case 1

Problem

A light remains off despite control commands.

Possible causes:

- Supply voltage missing
- Incorrect parameterisation
- CG defective
- Light defective



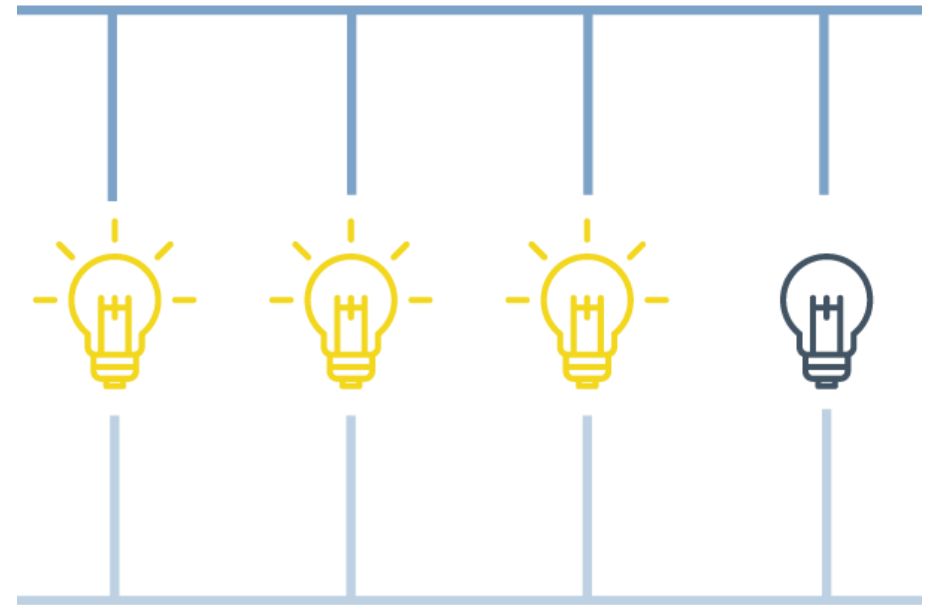
Error case 2

Problem

The light is permanently switched on at 100% and does not respond.

Possible causes:

- DALI bus interruption
- Excessive voltage drop/voltage too low
- Power supply/fuse defective
- Incorrect parameterisation



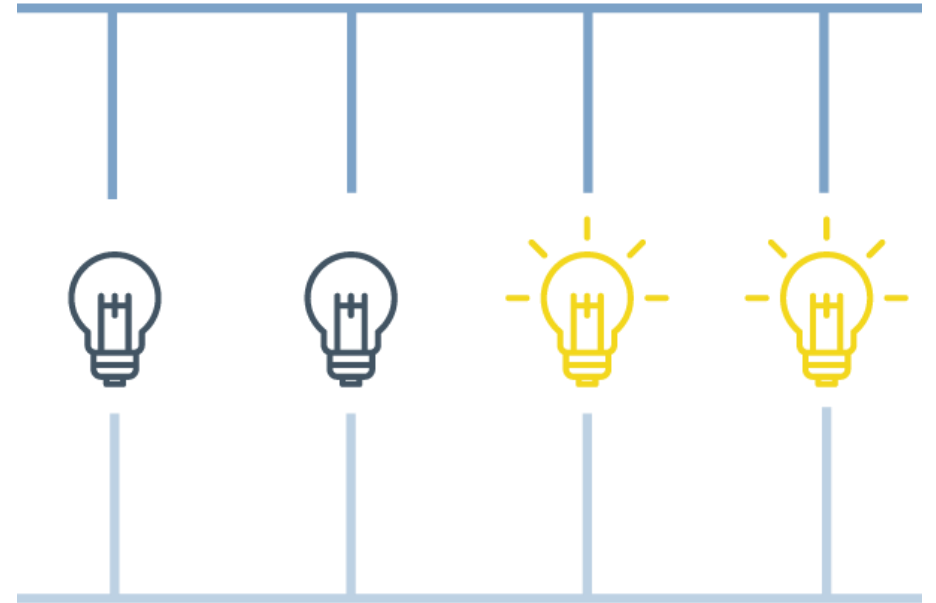
Error case 3

Problem

The lamp cannot be controlled individually.

Possible causes:

- Devices have the same address
- Can only occur if already addressed CG are subsequently added to the DALI line or, for example, the CG is exchanged across DALI line boundaries.



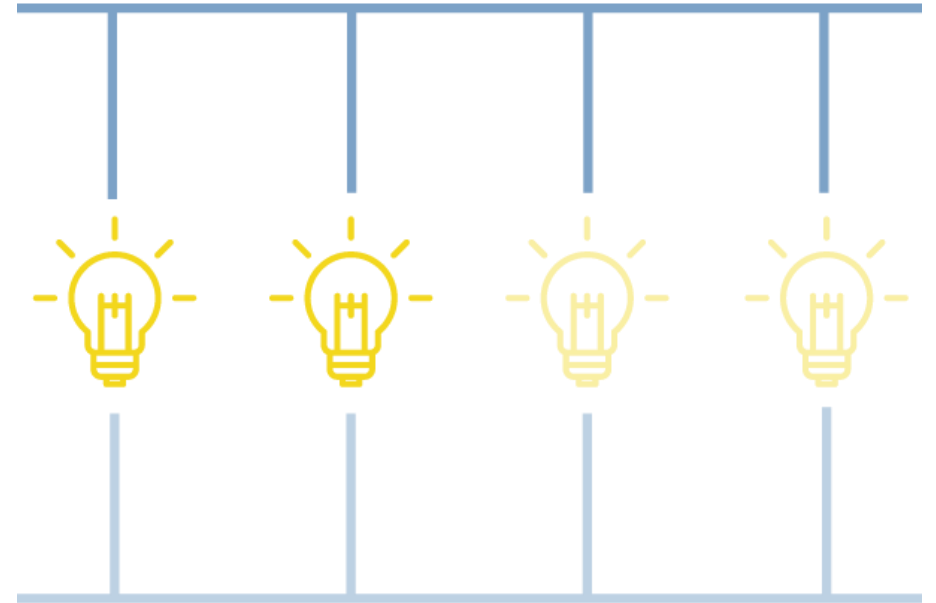
Error case 4

Problem

Some lamps remain at 50% during high dimming.

Possible causes:

- The "Max Level" parameter has not been configured correctly.



| Do you have any questions
about troubleshooting in DALI?

| WISHES,
SUGGESTIONS &
FEEDBACK

Further webinars and
recordings can be found here



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