



### Light Controller

Artificial lighting is designed to provide the light intensity necessary if there were no other source of illumination. But many rooms, particularly those in large-windowed office buildings, get a substantial amount of sunlight during the day. An automatic system which considers available sunlight and adjusts the artificial lighting level accordingly can trim energy costs appreciably. Such a system was developed by NASA's Kennedy Space Center. International Technology Corporation, Satellite Beach, Florida, obtained a NASA patent license for the technology, refined the design, and is now producing commercially an improved version known as the Automatic Lighting Controller.

In the photo, the small wall-mounted device at upper left is a photocell sensor which measures the intensity of combined sunlight and artificial light. The sensor communicates its information to the light controller in the box at left of the typewriter (the unit shown is a display model; normally the control box would be centrally located and out of sight). The controller automatically switches lights in various parts of the room to maintain a predetermined lighting level. The third element of the system, on the wall below the sensor, is the switch which turns the system on; by removing the switchplate, the user can adjust lighting intensity to his desired level. According to the manufacturer, use of the light controller can, in some cases, reduce electrical usage by 90 percent on a given day.



The system's capability was demonstrated in a two-year NASA test program and the Automatic Lighting Controller is being further evaluated by the National Bureau of Standards (NBS). Under NBS contract, International Technology Corporation installed the system at the Bureau's Center for Building Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland.