

# "Upgrading with ITW Gema increased our productivity by more than 72%!"



## THE COMPANY

Lightolier/CFI, a member of the Genlyte Thomas Group LLC family of companies, is a leading manufacturer of lighting fixtures and controls for commercial, industrial and residential markets.

*"Prior to our upgrade to the OptiSystem™ we were producing 2,500 parts per day running ten shifts per week. Now we can produce 4,300 parts per day with only eight shifts – and we're still improving!"*

*Christian Rheault, Lightolier/CFI*

## THE CHALLENGE

When Lightolier's equipment began to age, they knew it was time for an upgrade. Christian Rheault, Manufacturing Manager, relied on Lightolier's long-standing relationship with ITW Gema to build a new system that was right for their operation.

## THE SOLUTION

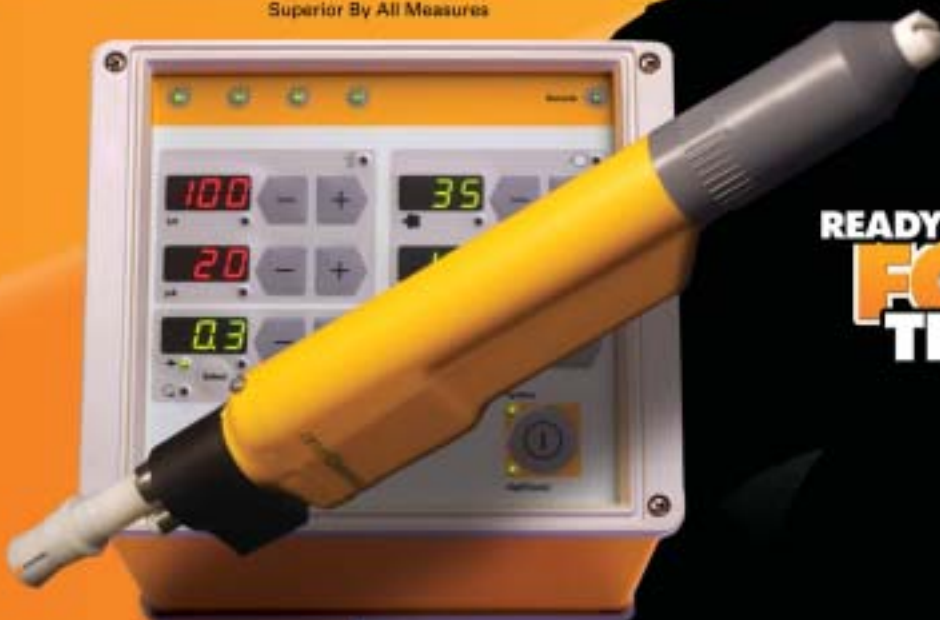
Lightolier upgraded to a complete OptiSystem from ITW Gema. The upgrade also included an 8,000 cfm Vortech™ powder booth and an AutoTracker™ Programmable Logic Control (PLC) that was integrated with their computer network.

## THE SAVINGS

Lightolier has been able to increase both line speed and product density, easily meeting their expanded production requirements. Due to better transfer efficiency, they also achieved powder savings of 28%. They **expected a return on their investment in eighteen months, but achieved it in less than 6!**

# ITW Gema

Superior By All Measures



READY TO UPGRADE?  
**FOLLOW  
THE LEADERS**

*Leaders Like Lightolier/CFI*

*Call 800-628-0601 and ask for Deborah or visit [www.itwgema.com/upgrade](http://www.itwgema.com/upgrade) for a free assessment of your powder coating operation.*

I T W G E M A C A S E S T U D I E S

# Lightolier/CFI Increases Productivity With OptiSystem™

*"The paint line used to be a bottleneck – that's no longer the case."*

ITW Gema proves to Lightolier/CFI the power of technology with their new OptiTronic Plus™ Control Units and OptiGun™ automatic powder guns.

A case study from Lightolier/CFI

**Lightolier/CFI, a leading manufacturer of high quality lighting fixtures and controls for both residential and commercial customers, drastically increases their output with a new OptiSystem from ITW Gema.**

## Company Background

Lightolier was founded in 1904, when the electric lighting industry was in its infancy. In the 1970's, Lightolier entered the fluorescent lighting market and created the first digital light dimmer in 1986. The introduction of this product propelled them into the lighting controls industry.

Today, Lightolier and CFI Fluorescent represent product lines of Canlyte Inc., which is a part of the Genlyte Thomas Group. Lightolier/CFI is a leading manufacturer of lighting fixtures and controls for commercial, industrial and residential markets.

## Existing Equipment and Challenges

Lightolier was a pioneer in the use of powder coatings. Twenty years ago, Lightolier was one of the first Canadian companies to install a powder coating system from ITW Gema. Relying on experience, Lightolier turned to ITW Gema for a solution when they decided to upgrade their system.

Gearing up for a major increase in production, Lightolier was concerned that their aging equipment would not be up to the task. The equipment was requiring more and more maintenance, which led to increased downtime and created a bottleneck at the paint line. If they were going to meet their aggressive production goals, they would need advanced technology.

While increased output was the main objective for Lightolier's equipment upgrade, other goals were:

- Reduced downtime
- Lower reject rate
- Powder savings
- Improved process control



## Equipment Installed

Because Lightolier was interested in the most advanced technology, their upgrade included a complete OptiSystem with twelve OptiGuns and OptiTronic Plus Control Units. For advanced control, the OptiSystem was integrated with ITW Gema's AutoTracker™ Programmable Logic Control (PLC). AutoTracker enables automatic gun triggering, application control and diagnostics. Giving supervisors critical information on demand right from their PC, AutoTracker allows Lightolier to maximize production planning, execution, and analysis for optimum process control.

To achieve even greater efficiency, Lightolier also chose to include two reciprocators in their upgrade. Positioned on tracks for manual in/out gun positioning, the reciprocators are capable of handling up to 64 reciprocating programs. This high level of automation enables Lightolier to achieve repeatable results and consistent finish quality.

For shorter run colors, a Vortech™ 8,000 cfm booth with revolutionary round-wall design was installed and equipped with roll on/off capability for maximum flexibility. To facilitate easier cleaning, vertical mini-cyclone separators were utilized in the recovery system for powder reclaim.

Fully integrated with their current ITW Gema equipment, the new system has allowed for customization of Lightolier's expansion needs, while incorporating components of the old system.



## Savings

Since the new system went online, Lightolier has been able to improve throughput dramatically, increasing from 2,500 to 4,300 parts per day. Even more amazing is the fact that they accomplished this while eliminating two shifts per week!

At the same time, they have seen significant improvement in the quality of their finished products and additional savings in the following areas:

- 10% reduction in rejects
- 28% savings in powder consumption due to better transfer efficiency and application uniformity
- Costly downtime minimized by providing up-to-the-minute statistics that allow supervisors to respond quickly to any changes in the coating environment
- Increased line density from a single to a double part-hanging configuration

During the planning stage of the project, Lightolier projected a return on their investment in eighteen months; however, the accumulated savings and increased output allowed them to **achieve it in less than 6!**

## Future Outlook

Lightolier's upgrade to the latest in powder coating technology from ITW Gema will enable them to continue to be a leader in the lighting controls industry for many years to come. The savings achieved, coupled with the precision control they now enjoy, are an integral part of Lightolier's continued commitment to innovation and excellence.

