Embracing the future
Ribeira’s Smart City evolution

With one of the largest CityTouch installations in Europe, the municipality of Ribeira is at the forefront of cutting-edge lighting.
Client
Municipality of Ribeira, Galicia, Spain

Energy services company
Ferrovial Servicios

Project
Urban lighting renewal and CityTouch system integration

Date
January 2015

Location
Ribeira, Galicia, Spain

Solution
CityTouch system
CityTouch Ready luminaires: UniStreet, CitySoul, TownGuide, Luma, Iridium Gen 3

Philips Lighting Advisor
Marcos Mendoza
The Galician municipality of Ribeira, Spain, proves that connectivity isn’t exclusive to big cities.

The Council renewed around 8,600 road and urban light points with Philips LED luminaires. Crucially, more than 6,500 would be managed via Philips CityTouch – the street lighting management system – putting Ribeira at the vanguard of public lighting in Europe.
The investment in CityTouch was spurred by the technological capabilities of the system. It’s an innovative tool with a lot of potential to integrate new services. It’s also scalable and can help a city become ‘smart’.

Alejandro García Sendón
Technical and Energy Services Coordinator of Ferrovial Servicios for the north of Spain.
New lighting reduces Council’s costs

Financing the lighting installation was simple. The public tender model, where energy service companies bid to install and maintain the lighting system, meant the Council could renew its lighting at practically no cost. The Council would pay a monthly fee, with the energy service provider covering the cost of installing and maintaining the new lighting, including paying the electricity bill.

Ferrovial Servicios won the contract and included CityTouch at the heart of its bid: “We worked with Philips when preparing our tender proposal,” explains Alejandro García Sendón, Technical and Energy Services Coordinator for Ferrovial Servicios for the North of Spain.

“It was clear that CityTouch would deliver a strong return on investment. We showed in our proposal how the savings generated from using the system would outweigh the cost of implementing it. Ultimately, we were able to demonstrate how Ribeira would end up paying less for its lighting than before the renewal, which is a compelling proposition.”

CityTouch
a street lighting management system

Find out more ›
"Following our experience with Ribeira, we have an excellent understanding of what we can achieve with CityTouch on future projects.

Alejandro García Sendón
Technical and Energy Services Coordinator of Ferrovial Servicios for the North of Spain

The Municipal Corporation had a number of objectives. It wanted to improve energy efficiency, and create well-lit spaces so people felt safer at night. Ferrovial Servicios and Philips were a step ahead, going beyond expectations with CityTouch. The system would deliver more than high-quality light – it would help Ribeira with its aim of becoming a Smart City: “By streamlining the lighting and reducing energy consumption, the cost savings could be invested in further areas of the Smart City project,” continues Alejandro García Sendón.
Since we have installed CityTouch there’s been a significant drop in phone calls from citizens reporting lighting faults.”

José da Torre
CityTouch operator in Ribeira Ferrovial Servicios.
One-click, hassle-free commissioning

In less than six months, 8,600 conventional sodium, halide and mercury discharge light points were replaced by LED lights, with more than 6,500 incorporated in the CityTouch system. “It takes the same time to install an LED luminaire as it does to install a conventional luminaire,” says Jose da Torre, Maintenance and Works Manager for Ribeira Ferrovial Servicios.

“One of the great things about CityTouch is how much time and hassle it saves. Because it’s a plug-and-play system, the set-up is so quick and easy. Commissioning is taken care of automatically – all it takes is one click,” he concludes.

Streamlined maintenance

As soon as a CityTouch Ready luminaire connects to CityTouch it’s ready for operation, with all the GPS data automatically appearing on an easy-to-use interface. The luminaire immediately begins relaying performance data, including lighting levels and energy consumption.

“Since installing CityTouch, there’s been a significant drop in phone calls from citizens reporting lighting faults,” explains José da Torre, CityTouch lighting operator in Ribeira. “With CityTouch we’re always one step ahead – the system automatically alerts us if there’s a problem before people have even noticed. It’s making a big difference to the service we’re able to deliver to citizens.”

With the CityTouch connect app, luminaires can be managed individually or as groups, either in near real-time or pre-scheduled: “CityTouch makes managing lighting much easier,” adds da Torre. “We can experiment with the lighting until we get the right level for each environment. And if there’s an incident, we can adjust the lighting immediately.”
There’s been a noticeable change in the lighting quality. For people like me, who work at night, I think the change can be seen more clearly”

Aleix Willisch
Night Shift Worker from the Fish Market in Ribeira.

Meeting the project objectives
CityTouch has delivered on its promises. The predicted 70% cost saving has been achieved, while the high-quality light has made Ribeira feel safer after dark – which has been greatly appreciated by the residents of the municipality.

Improving day-to-day living
Aleixandre Willisch, a night-shift fish market worker in Santa Eugenia de Ribeira, says the new lighting has had a major impact on the town: “There’s been a noticeable change in the lighting quality. For people like me, who work at night, I think the change can be seen more clearly. There’s more light in the street and the colors look better – there’s a greater sense of safety when you walk through the town at night.”

Alejandro García Sendón believes Ribeira is a great example of what can be achieved with CityTouch: “The system has placed Ribeira firmly on the Smart Cities map, thanks to the connected LED luminaires and remote, individual light point management. And because the system is scalable, we predict we can take advantage of even more possibilities in future.”
CityTouch has a lot of potential to integrate new services.

The system has a major role to play in a helping a city become smart.”

Alejandro García Sendón  
Technical and Energy Services Coordinator of Ferrovial Servicios for the north of Spain.