

of improved lighting components, materials, and control systems. OCLI received a contract of \$12,000 in DOE funds through LBL, to develop a coating specifically for application to lighting fixtures. OCLI is a well-established, highly respected, large company with a significant share of the optical coating market. It employs over 1,000 people, and has manufacturing plants in Europe as well as the United States. LBL administered the DOE contract on a cost-sharing basis with OCLI. The luminaire design and prototype development was subcontracted by OCLI to John Brass, Lighting Research and Development, Inc., San Rafael, California (Rubins, 1981).

The original objective for the project was to establish the performance and energy benefit of optical-coated, enhanced specular reflectors in conventional roadway luminaires. In January 1981, OCLI and LBL published a joint report which documented the satisfactory performance of the lighting fixtures with the coating.

Omega Energy, Inc., a small private company that was already in the business of manufacturing lighting fixtures with specular reflectors, saw the report and decided to investigate the new coating material. The product Omega Energy had been manufacturing was not performing as well as desired because the laminated silver film coating they were using was not sufficiently durable. In 1986 Omega Energy contacted OCLI and asked to manufacture fixtures with the OCLI dielectric coating. OCLI agreed and today Omega Energy has an exclusive license from OCLI to use the technology. OCLI had attempted to interest larger manufacturers of fixtures in the new coating, without success, before reaching the agreement with Omega Energy. OCLI now supplies Omega Energy with aluminum sheeting covered with the dielectric coating which Omega fabricates into fixtures and sells to end-users.