

August 4, 2016  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LIGHTHOUSE WORKS CEMENTS COMMERCIAL LED PARTNERSHIP WITH LIGHTING UPGRADE**

ORLANDO, FL, August 4, 2016 — Lighthouse Works, a subsidiary company of vision rehab agency, Lighthouse Central Florida, today announced the completion of a retrofit project to upgrade lighting in their 15,000 square foot business facility from incandescent to energy efficient LEDs.

Completed over the course of two days, the retrofit involved replacing all incandescent lighting and fixtures with LED units. Both Forest and GES agreed to donate product and installation services for the project as a goodwill gesture meant to salute the work Lighthouse does in Central Florida's community of blind and visually impaired.

A GES representative installing LED lighting at Lighthouse Works "This generous donation of energy efficient LEDs allows us the opportunity to reduce our own carbon footprint—we think it's the right thing to do for our planet and we're betting our customers think so too," said Lee Nasehi, president and CEO, Lighthouse Central Florida/Lighthouse Works!. "We're also very excited to be partnering with two major players within the commercial LED market and we're eager to show just how competitive we can be."

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### **ABOUT FOREST LIGHTING** ([www.forestlighting.com](http://www.forestlighting.com))

Forest Lighting, based in Atlanta, Georgia, is the USA subsidiary of MLS Co., Ltd. of China. MLS is among the top ten largest LED manufacturers in the world (Source: IHS Technology.) MLS has experienced 20% annual growth and has 12,000 employees. Recently listed on the China stock exchange, the company is an ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 qualified manufacturer, and LED manufacturing capacity exceeds 16 billion units. Products are UL Listed and DLC Qualified. Forest Lighting LED products are RoHS compliant, reflecting the corporate commitment to sustainability.

### **ABOUT GLOBAL ENERGY SERVICE** ([www.globalenergyservice.us](http://www.globalenergyservice.us))

Global Energy Services is an experienced, woman-owned lighting efficiency, water conservation and building envelope services company. GES provides a diverse team of engineering, electrical, and plumbing contracting professionals who are experts at squeezing the most savings out of your lighting, water, and building envelope dollars while delivering long-term positive cash flow directly to the bottom line:

- 8 Energy Engineers
- 10 Energy Auditors
- 12 Dedicated Project Managers
- 60 Full-Time Lighting Retrofitters and Plumbers

In addition to being a certified Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE), GES has their minority business status in the state of Pennsylvania, Maryland (MBE) and Virginia (SWAM), and North Carolina (HUB) certification.. Directing your business to GES will help you meet participation goals on contracts requiring the participation of certified WBE or minority-owned vendors.

### **ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE WORKS!**

Lighthouse Works is a social enterprise non-profit, which means its businesses exist to forward and fund our mission of living, learning and earning with vision loss. Through our wide range of businesses, we are able to provide job training, employment and career opportunities for the advancement of people who are visually impaired. Lighthouse Works operates as a subsidiary of Lighthouse Central Florida—Central Florida's only private, non-profit agency offering a comprehensive range of services to people living with sight impairment in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties. Established in 1976, Lighthouse has served generations with comprehensive vision rehabilitation and employment services. Lighthouse Works is affiliated with the National Industries for the Blind (NIB)—the nation's largest employment resource for people who are blind. Additionally, Lighthouse Works operates in partnership with the AbilityOne Program to secure quality product services to the federal government at fair market prices. To learn more, please visit: [www.lighthouseworks.org](http://www.lighthouseworks.org).

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The project marked the informal launch of a partnership deal between Lighthouse Works, Forest Lighting USA, a Georgia-based LED lighting manufacturer, and Global Energy Services (GES), a lighting audit and LED installation firm out of Maryland. The agreement positions Works to become the largest distributor of energy efficient LEDs in Central Florida.

“We could not be more excited and honored for the opportunity to partner with Lighthouse Works and Forest Lighting USA,” said Sean Fitzgerald, President of GES. “We are confident this joint venture is going to create local jobs in the Florida economy and support a great organization that serves individuals who are blind and visually impaired.”

Lighthouse Works’ role in the newly struck deal will be to perform fulfillment services, including: quality control, inspection and repackaging of Forest manufactured LEDs and then distribute from their warehouse in south Orlando as SKILCRAFT® branded product. Works will also focus on identifying large-scale, commercial contracts and GES will be responsible for auditing a building’s current energy consumption and installing the energy efficient lights accordingly.

Lighthouse Works is one of 93 nonprofit agencies associated with National Industries for the Blind (NIB), which produces SKILCRAFT® products and provides services for federal and military customers through the federal government’s AbilityOne® Program. NIB and its associated agencies serve as the largest employer of people who are blind in the United States, employing more than 5,500 people who are blind.

According to the American Foundation for the Blind, 75 percent of the estimated 4 million adults in the U.S. who are completely blind or partially sighted are not in the labor force—this despite the fact that, as a disability group, people with blindness have one of the highest rates of education.

Championing the mission of living, learning and earning with vision loss, Lighthouse Central Florida and its subsidiary, Lighthouse Works, have worked tirelessly to correct this injustice and help create employment opportunities for people who are blind and visually impaired.



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