









MYTH vs. TRUTH

Eight common beliefs about DALI — and what the evidence shows

DALI has a reputation problem. Much of it traces back to the original DALI specification, which had no mandatory conformance testing and required specialist tools that most electrical crews did not have. DALI-2 ended that era. The beliefs below persist in the field despite being demonstrably outdated.

COMMON MYTH	THE TRUTH
<p> "DALI is too complicated to design and commission."</p> <p>Assumes specialized expertise, complex programming, and more effort than 0-10V or other low-voltage approaches.</p>	<p> WaveLinx DALI dramatically reduces wiring complexity.</p> <p>Auto-addressing gets systems online fast. No guesswork, no random analog trimming. Simpler topology means fewer installation errors and lower labor cost.</p>
<p> "DALI adds unnecessary cost."</p> <p>More expensive fixtures, specialty controls, and extra labor make DALI less cost-effective than 0-10V or simple relay systems.</p>	<p> Fixture-level control lowers long-term project cost.</p> <p>Per-fixture addressing eliminates physical rewiring for space changes, zoning adjustments, and tenant churn. The savings compound across the life of the building.</p>
<p> "DALI is only for large, sophisticated buildings."</p> <p>DALI is overkill for schools, small offices, or retrofits. Smaller spaces do not need that granularity or flexibility.</p>	<p> WaveLinx DALI scales to any project size.</p> <p>Same workflow whether it is a single-zone classroom or a 500,000 sq ft campus. No special expertise required at any scale.</p>
<p> "DALI is not compatible with existing systems."</p> <p>It will not integrate cleanly with BMS, PoE, wireless, or existing infrastructure. Gateways and hybrid systems are messy.</p>	<p> Hybrid DALI and wireless architectures are straightforward.</p> <p>WaveLinx DALI integrates smoothly with wireless layers, BMS, BACnet, and PoE. It is the backbone that makes hybrid architectures reliable, not the barrier.</p>

COMMON MYTH

THE TRUTH



"DALI is outdated compared to wireless networks."

Wired systems are being replaced entirely by BLE, Zigbee, and Thread. Modern means wireless-only. DALI belongs to an earlier era.



DALI-2 and D4i are deeply modern, open, and interoperable.

DALI is not a competitor to wireless. It is the wired backbone that makes hybrid wired-plus-wireless architectures work reliably and at scale.



"DALI does not support the data modern buildings need."

DALI is a dimming-only protocol with no real data or analytics capability beyond switching lights on and off.



D4i delivers rich operational data, built into the standard.

Energy use, driver health, run-time logs, temperature, and asset IDs. Not proprietary add-ons. Baked into DALI-2. Enables predictive maintenance and reduces outages.



"DALI limits fixture choices and locks you into one manufacturer."

Interoperability is poor and mixing brands is risky. Early-2000s DALI limitations still apply to products on the market today.



Cross-manufacturer interoperability is certified, not theoretical.

DALI-2 certification verifies that fixtures, drivers, sensors, and controls from different manufacturers work together reliably. That is a requirement of the standard.



"Commissioning DALI requires proprietary tools."

Only one manufacturer's software or hardware dongle works with their system. You are locked in from the first commissioning session.



DALI-2 enforces openness. Any certified tool works.

No proprietary software required. No vendor lock-in. DALI is governed by IEC standards and a global consortium, not a manufacturer. No licensing cost.

DALI-2 + D4i also solve real performance problems that 0-10V cannot: no voltage drop inconsistencies, perfect synchronization, smooth dimming curves, and elimination of driver mismatch issues. These differences matter in offices, healthcare, museums, and education.

Want to see **WaveLinx DALI** on a real project?

Request a 20-minute project review. No pitch deck. No commitment.

REQUEST A REVIEW