

## EMerge Alliance Update: DC Power Progress

By Brian Patterson, Emerge Alliance Chairman

The Emerge Alliance is an open, membership-based, not-for-profit industry association that was formed in 2008 to create and promote the adoption of new standards for hybrid direct-current (DC) power distribution within commercial building interiors. With more than 60 member organizations today, the Alliance and its DC power movement continue to gain the support of building industry leaders in a collaborative effort to bring greater *flexibility*, *sustainability* and *savings* to new and existing facilities.

Emerge Alliance efforts with DC power focus on:

**Flexibility:** Allowing direct access to safe power (low voltage, DC); Making it easier to install lighting fixtures, sensors, and other devices; Enabling easy repurposing and reconfigurations without re-wiring; Helping future-proof a space for new technologies like LEDs and renewable energy

**Sustainability:** Promoting reuse of system devices with plug-and-play mobility; Promoting sustainability with simpler system devices that have less materials (no AC-DC conversion components); Reducing energy consumption through state-of-the-art device controls and solid-state lighting; Facilitating the direct connection and use of clean energy from solar, wind, fuel cells or other alternative energy sources; Providing improved energy efficiency through integrated load and source management and "Smart Grid" connectivity

**Savings:** Reducing the number and improving the efficiency of AC-DC power conversions between traditional and alternative power sources and device loads; Allowing simple, quick and safe relocation and re-installation of room level electrical fixtures and devices; Significantly easing reconfiguration costs to get buildings back in operation sooner; Offering backward and forward compatibility, reducing technology upgrade costs; Optimizing electrical energy use to enable better control, metering and demand response

### Standard

Released in the fall of 2009, the first Emerge Alliance Standard is an open power distribution platform for the use of safe, low-voltage DC power in commercial interiors. It integrates interior infrastructures, power, controls and peripheral devices to facilitate the hybrid use of AC and DC power in office, retail, education, government and healthcare new construction and renovation projects.

This Emerge Standard is now available for use by member manufacturers offering a variety of products including, lighting, controls, power converters, ceiling grid, connectors and cabling, security, IT and other common commercial building infrastructure and devices. Work continues to create additional DC integration standards for other areas in commercial buildings, including data/telecom centers.

Potential product providers are encouraged to join the Alliance to help in this trailblazing work. Specifiers and building owners should also join the Alliance to stay informed of new Alliance initiatives, standards updates and to demonstrate green industry leadership.

[www.EmergeAlliance.org](http://www.EmergeAlliance.org)

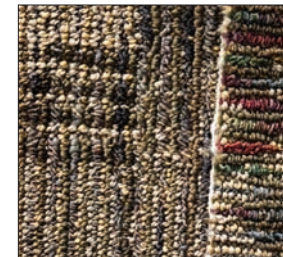


# Carpet



### ↑ SIZE IS EVERYTHING

Three designs can be applied to both 24-in. and Powerbond Variable Cushion Tufted Textile to build pattern inlays within the floor plane of **Tandus'** new Landscape Patterns Collection. The modular carpet allows designers to build hybrid floors that break the tedium of the floor plane and eliminate "pattern fatigue." Squiggle Ray (shown) is one of the three designs that offer a myriad of pattern combinations and address the needs of hospitality, healthcare, education and commercial spaces. Tandus offers a variety of sustainable backings for the collection, including the new Ethos backing, made from the film layer of car windshields and shatterproof glass. Visit [tandus.com](http://tandus.com) or Circle 445



### ↑ SO SURREAL

Modular carpet collection Surreal Life by **Bigelow Commercial** was designed to liven up commercial spaces. Spontaneous, Bizarre and Dreamlike modular patterns are manufactured with ColorStrand Solution-Dyed Nylon and are protected by The Mohawk Group's Sentry Plus Soil and Stain Treatment, providing color retention and ease of maintenance. Visit [bigelowcommercial.com](http://bigelowcommercial.com) or Circle 443

### → FASHIONISTA

The Fashionista carpet collection by Stacy Garcia for **Shaw Hospitality Group** plays with layers of popular patterns and a variety of "almost" neon colors. Print patterns are available on Eco Evolution, which is 100% recyclable into virgin quality ingredients and can be repeatedly made into new carpet fiber without degrading design or performance capabilities. With several pattern options, a variety of borders, medallions and print fields can be combined. Fashionista is manufactured with Shaw's Eco Solution Q nylon, which contains a minimum of 25% pre-consumer recycled content. Visit [shawhospitalitygroup.com](http://shawhospitalitygroup.com) or Circle 444

