



Elemental Gazette

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Your source for the latest news from Elemental Effects

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June 16, 2010 – Universal Orlando

Following Harry Potter's lead, 1000 VIP guests of Hogsmeade village and Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry held their wands high and uttered the spell "Lumos Maxima" and with that the tips of a thousand wands lit to bring Hogwarts to life.

E2 was asked to bring a bit more magic to the long anticipated opening of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Orlando. Our task was not a simple one; make the tips of one thousand wands light on cue by remote control and do so in just 6 weeks.

Fortunately we were not alone in this task; Artistic Adventures was also on board to handle the molding and casting work required for the bodies of the wands.

Considering all the variables, we determined that infrared communications would be best suited for the application.

Working closely with Artistic we developed a system for casting the IR receivers and LED tip in the wand mold. We also machined the master plug used to maintain the space needed in the handle for the circuit board and batteries.

The transmitter system consisted of 28 emitters installed on the perimeter of the guest area and a central controller in the technical tower.

All circuit design, assembly and programming was done in house at E2. After nearly 80,000 solder joints and more than a few strained eyes we installed and operated the system for both the June 16 and 17 grand opening events.

We never know just what Universal will throw at us but you can bet that it will be interesting, challenging and ultimately magic.

