



somfy® Intelli-shade May 2026

Modern buildings are becoming more complex, with increasing demands for comfort, efficiency, and sustainability. To meet these expectations, intelligent building management solutions are being adopted to integrate systems such as lighting, shading, and climate control into one seamless platform—enabling **centralized control** and **real-time responsiveness**. By leveraging automation and real-time data, these solutions continuously adapt to occupancy, daylight, and outdoor conditions, **optimizing energy use** while maintaining a **comfortable indoor environment**.

One such solution is Somfy's **animeo building management system**, designed to automate the control of curtains, blinds, and solar shading. Here's why animeo is the ideal choice for modern buildings:



Energy Savings

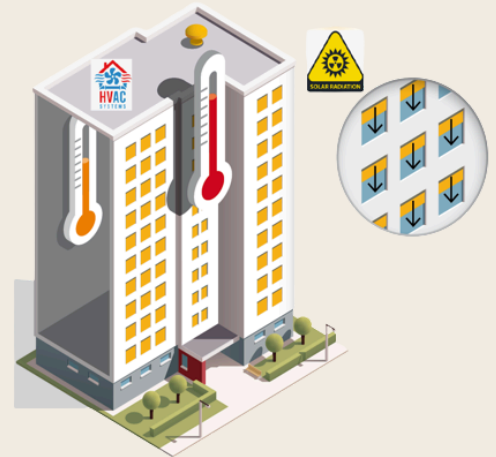
Dynamic solar shading delivers significantly greater energy savings compared to manual operation. In reality, manual shading is rarely adjusted—ESTIA studies* show it is operated less than twice per week on average—resulting in missed opportunities for both energy efficiency and comfort. With animeo, blinds continuously adapt throughout the day to changing sunlight and temperature conditions, reducing the need for artificial lighting and helping to lower overall energy consumption. The system's advanced algorithms actively manage the building's thermal balance by combining Lux measurements with indoor and outdoor temperature data.



*ESTIA Study, Switzerland, 2014

Key Energy Algorithms Include:

- **Block Heat:** During hot days, animeo detects when sunlight could cause overheating. It automatically adjusts blinds and shades to limit direct solar gain, keeping interior temperatures stable and reducing the need for air conditioning. This helps lower cooling costs while maintaining a comfortable indoor environment.
- **Solar Heating:** In colder conditions, animeo identifies opportunities to let the sun's warmth into the building. Blinds are positioned to capture sunlight and naturally heat interior spaces, reducing reliance on heating systems and improving energy efficiency.
- **Maintain Heat:** Even when temperatures fluctuate, animeo optimizes shading positions to preserve warmth inside. By adjusting blinds strategically, the system enhances thermal insulation, preventing heat loss and keeping indoor temperatures consistent.
- **Night Cooling:** During cooler nights, animeo can open blinds to allow fresh, cooler air to enter, naturally lowering indoor temperatures. This reduces the workload on HVAC systems the following day, saving energy while supporting a healthy, comfortable environment.



Human Comfort, Well-being, and Performance

Access to natural daylight and outdoor views plays a critical role in occupant wellbeing. Research* has consistently shown that well-lit environments improve satisfaction, productivity, and overall health. In healthcare environments**, patients in brighter rooms have been found to recover faster—spending up to 41% less time in hospitals compared to those in dimly lit spaces. In educational settings***, exposure to natural daylight has been linked to significantly improved student performance, with studies showing up to 26% higher reading scores and 20% higher math scores.



*World Green Building Council report, Health Wellbeing & Productivity in Offices, 2014

**Impacts of indoor daylight environments on patient average length of stay (ALOS) in a healthcare facility (Choi et al., 2012)

***Research by GBC/TBC

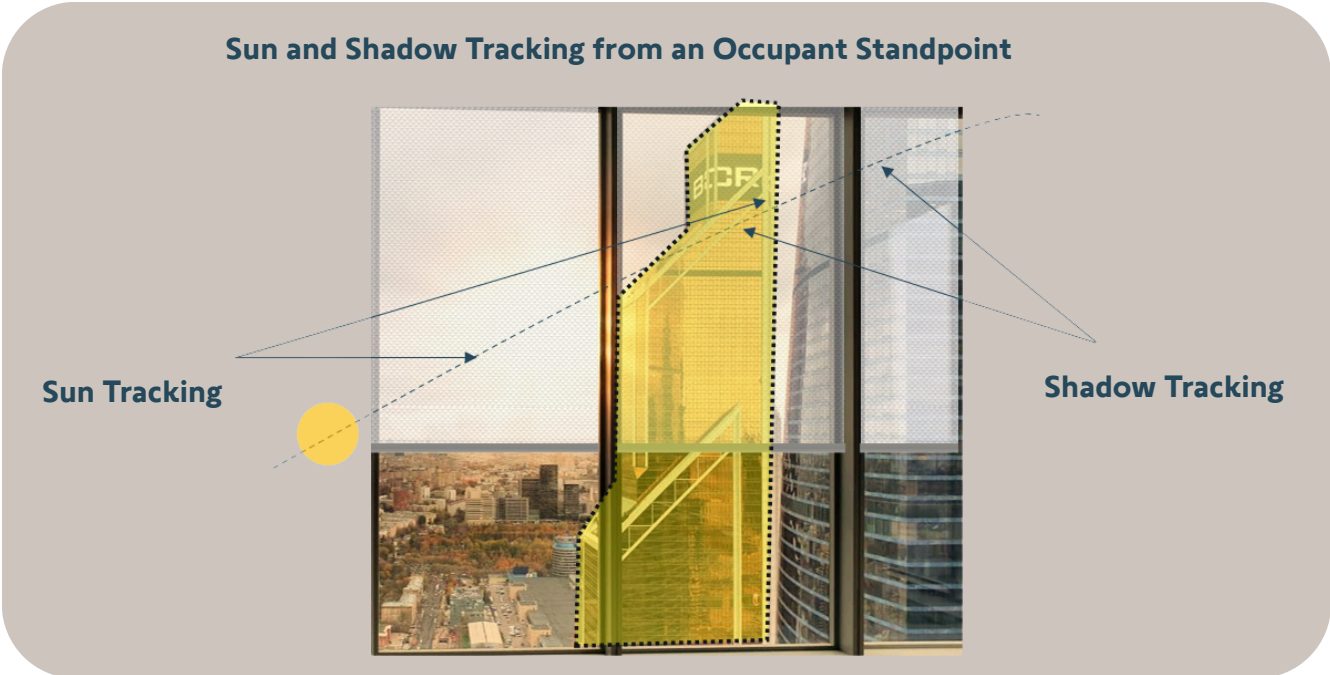
Office environments also benefit greatly from optimized daylight. Research* indicates that employees working in naturally lit spaces experience a 51% reduction in eyestrain, a 63% decrease in headaches, and a 56% reduction in drowsiness. Additionally, nearly 80% of employees report that access to natural light and outdoor views enhances their overall happiness and wellbeing**.



animeo features a unique Sun & Shadow Tracking capability that maximizes the benefits of natural light while minimizing its drawbacks.

Sun Tracking automatically adjusts each shading system throughout the day and across seasons, continuously updating positions to follow the sun’s movement. When sunlight hits a façade, the entire system responds dynamically, maximizing natural daylight while reducing glare and preventing overheating to enhance user comfort.

Shadow Tracking allows solar shading to dynamically adjust its position by accounting for shadows cast by the building’s orientation and surrounding structures, optimizing daylight throughout the day and activating sun protection only when needed to enhance user comfort.



**Research by Cornell University Professor Dr. Alan Hedge

**Associations of Cognitive Function Scores with Carbon Dioxide, Ventilation, and Volatile Organic Compound Exposures in Office Workers: A Controlled Exposure Study of Green and Conventional Office Environments – Harvard 2016

Security and Protection

animeo acts as a proactive safeguard for both blinds and buildings, continuously monitoring environmental conditions and responding instantly to protect people, equipment, and structures—eliminating the need for manual intervention and reducing human error.

Equipped with advanced weather sensors, animeo detects changes in wind, rain, temperature, and sunlight. When conditions become potentially damaging, it automatically retracts blinds during strong winds, secures exterior shades in frost to prevent motor damage, and adjusts positioning in heavy rain to reduce impact and water accumulation. These intelligent actions extend the lifespan of shading systems while minimizing structural strain and preserving the building envelope.

Wind Protection and Direction: animeo continuously monitors wind speed and direction. When gusts exceed safe levels or come from angles that affect the façade, blinds automatically move to a predefined protective position. This targeted response prevents stress on motors and fabric, prolonging the life of the system while safeguarding the building.



Fire Safety: In the event of a fire alarm, all blinds are automatically moved to a safe predefined position, overriding every other command, including manual and automated controls. This ensures that emergency exit routes remain clear and supports compliance with safety regulations.

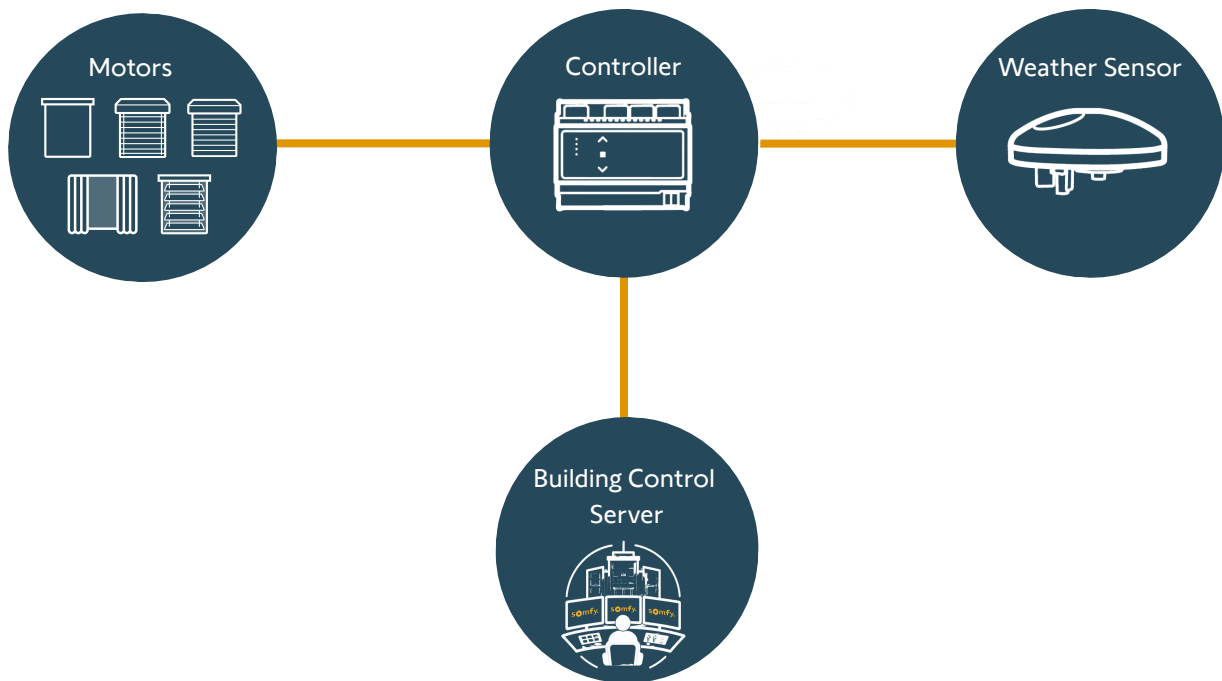
Glass Cleaning Function: Facility managers can take manual control of the shading system with a key switch override. This allows blinds to be securely positioned and locked for maintenance or cleaning, temporarily bypassing local user controls to ensure safety and convenience during critical operations



Products

animeo Solution: Advanced Solar Shading Control

Somfy's animeo KNX and animeo IB+ TouchBuco are solutions for managing solar protection systems. **animeo KNX** uses the **KNX protocol** for integration with other building systems, ideal for **smart building automation**. Meanwhile, **animeo IB+ TouchBuco** focuses on **standalone control** of solar protection devices via an intuitive touchscreen interface. KNX excels in flexibility for **integrated projects**, while IB+ TouchBuco is optimized for **simple operation** and **dedicated shading solutions**.



The diagram above illustrates how the **animeo system** operates.

The **animeo solution** features a comprehensive range of **controllers, weather sensors, and accessories** that work together as **one connected ecosystem**. Designed for maximum flexibility and functionality, these proven solutions help simplify installation while enabling **smarter** and more **efficient building operations**.

TouchBuco BACnet*

Central unit designed for solar shading and window automation to control up to 4 or 8 individual façade orientations of a building



Dimension	200 x 132 x 72 mm
Power	100-230 V AC
Mounting	Wall- or flush-mounted

IB+ 4 AC Motor Controller WM*

Motor controller to individually control four 120V AC motors with a local control or the control of a group of motors via automation



Dimension	255 x 180 x 61 mm
Power	120 V AC
Mounting	Wall-mounted

*Applicable to animeo IB+ only.

Products

Outside Sensor Box

Interface to connect the sensors to the TouchBuco. Requires a 24V DC power supply.



Dimension	207 x 255 x 90 mm
Power	24 V DC
Mounting	Wall-mounted

Radio RTS Card (Plug-in Module)

Receiver to control 4 AC, 4 DC or 4 DC/DC-E Motor Controllers by RTS radio with RTS radio local controls. Clips directly into the Motor Controller.



Dimension	52 x 92 x 27 mm
Power	5 V DC
Mounting	Clips into the Motor Controller

Weather Station KNX

Combined Weather Station and Building Controller with advanced functionalities to manage 8 façade areas and all types of blinds. Compact design discrete on façade or roof.



Dimension	130 mm, 88 mm
Power	24 V DC
Mounting	Wall- or mast-mounted

Sensor Station

Sensor Station including 1 Outside Sensor Box, 4 sun sensors, 1 wind sensor and 1 exterior temperature sensor, attached to an aluminium mast.



Dimension	3200 mm
Power	N/A
Mounting	Wall (brackets included)

KNX 4AC Motor Controller WM/DRM

For inside and outside shade systems. To control 4 x 230V AC motors.



Dimension	255 x 180 x 61 mm 210 x 90 x 61 mm
Mounting	Wall-mounted or DIN-rail

KNX RTS Receiver 433/447 MHz WM

Universal radio receiver to forward orders from Somfy RTS transmitters to the KNX bus for the integration with any application.



Dimension	81 x 81 x 25 mm
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Products

KNX Master Control W2/W8

Enables a zone-based tracking of 16 or more façade areas for a selection of 19 different blinds.



Dimension	182 x 180 x 110 mm 254 x 180 x 110 mm
Mounting	Wall-mounted

Outside Sensor Box

Interface between the weather station and the animeo KNX Master Control W2/W8



Dimension	235 x 207 x 90 mm
Mounting	Wall-mounted

animeo Power Supply DC

To supply the Outside Sensor Box (with heated sensors), the animeo KNX Master Control W2/W8.



Dimension	130 x 180 x 61 mm
Power	230 V
Mounting	Wall-mounted or DIN-rail

KNX 640mA Power Supply

KNX switching power supply with integrated choke. Universal input.



Dimension	107 x 91 x 62 mm
Mounting	Directly on DIN-rail

KNX IP Router

Ensures secure communication between KNX lines and IP backbones while preventing unauthorized access.



Dimension	18 x 90 x 56 mm
Mounting	Directly on DIN-rail

Case Study

Project Name:	Amore Pacific Yongsan Headquarters
Location:	Seoul, South Korea
Owner:	Amore Pacific
Architect:	David Chipperfield
Construction Designer:	Heaahn
Contractor:	Hyundai E&C
Building Type:	Commercial Building
Motor type & qty:	Sonesse 40 x 6,600 pcs.
Control:	animeo KNX, animeo KNX Motor Controller 4 AC

The Amore Pacific headquarters in Seoul is a striking symbol of innovation, blending aesthetics, functionality, and advanced technology.

Its exposed-ceiling design demands precise integration, achieved by combining the curtain wall transom with the motorized blind headbox and embedding guide rails within the mullion frames. This creates a unified façade where shading and window systems function as one—enhancing both design and performance.

Designed to meet **complex architectural and performance demands**, the solution reflects Somfy's expertise in delivering precise, reliable, and seamlessly integrated shading systems, supported by several key considerations:



Global Market Leadership

Somfy's position as a worldwide leader in motorized shading solutions provided strong assurance of **product quality, innovation, and long-term reliability**.

Proven Large-scale Project Experience

With successful landmark projects in Korea, including LH Headquarters and FKI Yeouido—each featuring thousands of motors—Somfy demonstrated its capability to deliver at scale with precision.

Reliable Local Support

Somfy provides a strong service and maintenance network, ensuring **long-term operational efficiency**—an essential requirement for a project of this magnitude.

Consistency and durability

With more than 6,000 motors installed, **system consistency and performance stability** were essential—and Somfy delivered on both fronts.



Photo credit: Amorepacific

Case Study

Project Name:	New Development Bank BRICS
Location:	Shanghai, China
Construction Company:	Shanghai Government Offices Administration
Product Type:	Roller Blind
Integration:	Third-Party Building Management System (ABB)
Building Type:	Commercial Building
Motor type:	Sonesse 50
Control:	animeo KNX



The New Development Bank (NDB), established by the BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—is a 30-story landmark in Shanghai, China, designed to meet the highest standards of sustainability, innovation, and smart building performance.

To support these ambitions, the project integrates an advanced building control system with Somfy's intelligent shading solutions, enabling centralized and automated management of blinds across the building. This approach has contributed to the project achieving prestigious certifications, including China Green Building Design Label (Three-Star), LEED Gold, and the Healthy Building Design Label (Three-Star).

Enhanced Occupant Comfort

With real-time sun tracking, blinds automatically adjust according to changing daylight and weather conditions. This **maximizes natural light, reduces glare**, and creates a more **comfortable indoor environment** throughout the day.

Third-party Integration

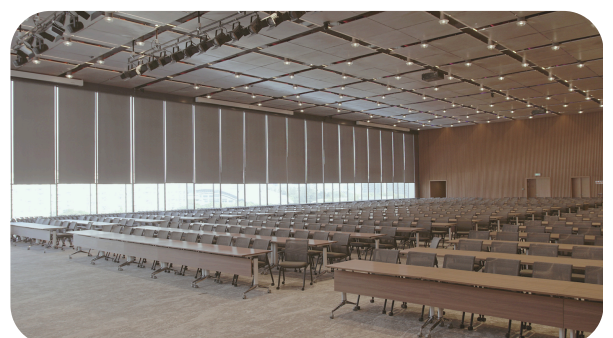
Somfy's solutions are seamlessly integrated with the ABB i-bus system via KNX, enabling coordinated control across all building zones. The building is designed with a zoned approach—low-rise, standard, and high-rise areas—ensuring **precise and efficient shading management** tailored to each space.

Energy Efficiency

In a high-rise environment where conditions constantly evolve, automated shading ensures blinds are always optimally positioned. This **reduces heat gain and reliance on artificial lighting**, improving overall **energy performance** without manual intervention.

Building Safety

Automation also supports safety requirements. In the event of a fire alarm, the building management system (BMS) automatically triggers blinds to move to predefined positions, enabling a **faster and more reliable emergency response**.



Meet Our Team

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