

Abstract

An electronic ballast for a low-pressure discharge lamp (LA) contains an inverter that is fed with direct
5 voltage (U_{BUS}) and the output of which is connected to a load circuit containing terminal contacts for the lamp (LA), a heating transformer that has a primary winding (T_p), which is connected to the output of the inverter, and a respective secondary winding (T_{s1} , T_{s2}), which is
10 located in a heating circuit with a coil (W_1 , W_2), for heating each of the two electrodes of the lamp (LA), and a series circuit arrangement that is connected in parallel with the load circuit and which contains the primary winding (T_p) of the heating transformer and an
15 electronic switch arrangement (S_3 , S_4). For the purpose of identifying the type of lamp and the state of the lamp, the currents in one of the two heating circuits and in the primary winding (T_p) of the heating transformer are measured and evaluated.

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[Figure 1]