



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ACCIONA Energy Awarded 2019 IMEC Bronze Award for Excellence by the IMEC Recognition Program**

**Peoria, IL – November 19, 2019** – IMEC has announced ACCIONA Energy of Chicago, IL as a recipient of the 2019 IMEC Bronze Award for Excellence.

“We are honored to be recognized by IMEC for our commitment to quality and sustainable operations in delivering renewable energy to our customers,” said Rafael Esteban, CEO of ACCIONA’s Energy Division in the United States. “We share this award with our team as ACCIONA further improves our approach and execution in generating renewable energy.”

The IMEC Bronze Award for Excellence is granted to those organizations that demonstrate systematic approaches that respond to the basic requirements of the Baldrige Framework for Performance Excellence criteria. A general improvement orientation must be evident in the organization, along with key approaches by senior leaders to guide and sustain the organization and prove the use of systematic approaches to improve key work processes. Additionally, the organization must report results for several areas that are important to the accomplishment of their mission.

“The IMEC award recognizes the maturity of ACCIONA’s Quality Management System and the energy and discipline of our team members,” said Karl Delooff, Director of Quality, Safety, Environment, and Sustainability with ACCIONA’s North American Energy Division. “Every day our team delivers great, consistent results and I am proud to be part of the ACCIONA team.”

ACCIONA is a global operator in renewables with 30 years’ experience in the sector and 9,851 megawatts (MW) under its ownership, spread across 16 countries on the five continents. It has 224 wind farms, 76 hydropower stations, 6 large photovoltaic plants, 3 biomass plants and a CSP plant. In North America, ACCIONA has more than 1,000 MW of wind energy online and under construction and has a pipeline of more than 3,000 MW of solar PV with the possibility of adding up to 1,000 MW of co-located energy storage. In addition to selling energy on the wholesale market, the company markets energy to large clients.

“We are proud to partner with ACCIONA Energy North America on their journey to Performance Excellence,” said Ben Krupowicz, Executive Director of the IMEC Recognition Program. “They are a leader in renewable energy and although early in their journey, are



supported by a senior leadership team aligned with the company vision, mission and values which are strongly integrated into strategy, action plans, and communications throughout the organization.”

The 2019 Board of Examiners – comprised of 52 experts in business, education, health care and government – spent more than 1,100 hours assessing each applicant in seven categories: leadership; strategic planning; customer focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; operations focus; and results. The IMEC Panel of Judges is responsible for validating the integrity of the IMEC Awards for Excellence process and determining recognition levels for each applicant. The panel is composed of experts selected from all industry sectors and represents various geographic areas of the state of Illinois.

Since 1994, there have been 283 applicants, approximately 1,600 examiners, representing nearly 170,000 hours of work, resulting in appropriately \$7.4 million in volunteered time – all to make Illinois organizations more competitive, create jobs, and improve communities. As your preferred resource for growth and enterprise excellence, IMEC also offers training and support to help you address the Baldrige Criteria from leadership to results.

*For more information on how your organization can benefit from services provided by IMEC, visit [www.imec.org](http://www.imec.org) or call 888-806-4632.*

*For more information on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, visit [www.nist.gov/baldrige/](http://www.nist.gov/baldrige/).*

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## About IMEC

IMEC leverages the Baldrige Excellence Framework as a foundation for driving organizational improvement and innovation across the state of Illinois. By providing a range of hands-on, goal-oriented solutions in the areas of leadership; strategy; customer engagement; measurement, analysis, and knowledge management; operations; and workforce, IMEC leads organizations in their mission to improve business results and to create sustainable competitive futures. Through the Recognition Program, IMEC celebrates the organizations committed to achieving enterprise excellence and sets them apart as a true class of distinction.