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Concentric Itasca, Inc. Awarded 2013 Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” from Illinois Performance Excellence

Naperville, IL – (December 10, 2013) Illinois Performance Excellence announces Concentric Itasca Inc. is a recipient of the 2013 Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” for demonstrating that senior leaders’ actions guide and sustain the organization, and, the use of systematic approaches to improve key work processes. Concentric Itasca will be formally honored at the 19th annual award recognition ceremony, “Saluting Excellence,” on March 27th, 2014, held at the Abbington Banquets located in Glen Ellyn.

“Congratulations to Concentric Itasca and all of its employees for its commitment to an on-going journey to excellence,” says Darcy Davidsmeyer, President and CEO of Illinois Performance Excellence. “Applying the principles of the Baldrige Criteria can transform an organization, helping it to perform and become more efficient while always focusing on results.”

Recipients of the ILPEX Bronze Award go to those organizations which have demonstrated earnest efforts to adopt and apply continuous improvement principles, following the Baldrige *Criteria for Performance Excellence*.

Concentric Itasca Inc. based in Illinois, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Concentric AB, the market leader and benchmark in lubrication, cooling and fuel pumps for medium and heavy-duty diesel engines and transmissions. Our products are sold to engine and vehicle manufacturer’s operating in commercial and industrial markets with a blue chip customers base such as Cummins, John Deere, Caterpillar, and others.

Climate issues and other challenges are placing great demands on global responsibility for reducing energy consumption and achieving a better and safer environment. Concentric’s mission is to develop and deliver products that provide fuel economy improvements, pursuing a strategy to meet and exceed society’s increasingly stringent environmental and high quality requirements that have less effect on the environment.

Concentric’s Business Excellence model exercises many recognized improvement techniques, Lean-tools, standards and processes with Malcolm Baldrige as the corner stone for business improvement (Concentric were recently awarded the 2013 ILPEX award for Commitment of Excellence). Based on the skills and efforts of its employees, Concentric aims to develop a high-performance, world-class company that continuously strives to improve operations in accordance with best in class standards.

Concentric's success is based on the competencies and abilities of its employees and the endeavor to continuously improve, employees with diverse cultural backgrounds must be able to work together to create added value for the company and for customers. This is something Concentric continually strives to improve. In order to capitalize on its excellent growth potential, Concentric must improve its cost effectiveness and increase its productivity, continuously. This work is conducted within the framework of Concentric's Business Excellence model, as noted.

"We are proud of our team in Itasca. They have a passion to improve the business and the courage to challenge the status quo. The journey to Concentric Business Excellence is mapped out, and this Bronze award from Illinois Performance Excellence is a significant milestone along the way and we are honored to receive it", said Martin Bradford, Senior Vice President Americas.

About Illinois Performance Excellence

Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX) empowers organizations to understand and use the framework of the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, moving to a systematic "view" which translates into alignment and sustainability. As a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization, ILPEX's vision is to create a culture of excellence that is pervasive throughout Illinois. Four Illinois organizations have been honored with the prestigious Baldrige National Quality Award, they are: Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital – 2010; Community Consolidated School District 15 – 2003; Motorola Commercial, Government & Industrial Solutions Sector – 2002; Motorola. Inc. – 1988.

For more information on how your organization can benefit from services provided by Illinois Performance Excellence, visit www.ilpex.org, or call 630-637-1595 extension 1.

For more information on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, visit www.nist.gov/baldrige/.

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