



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern

German American Chamber of Commerce
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Press Release

For immediate release

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Airleader Compressor Management wins 2016 Energy Efficiency Award Challenge

Airleader's compressor management system sways jury during a celebration of German energy efficient innovations in US buildings

Chicago, IL, April 8, 2016 - Airleader was honored with the coveted Energy Efficiency Award at the 2016 Energy Efficiency Award Challenge for the installation of their compressor management system at the Herman Miller facility in Spring Lake, MI. The judges chose Airleader from the four finalists, highlighting that the company made a return on investment within one year. Airleader's compressor management system has already paid for itself and continues to improve operating efficiency within Herman Miller's furniture plant.

Award Winner Jan Hoetzel said: "We believe that informed people make the difference. Airleader enables compressor operators to understand their system and harvest energy savings. Energy efficiency is the cheapest energy source. "

The Award Challenge was organized and hosted by GACC Midwest to showcase and promote American and German partnerships for innovative and energy efficient building technologies. The Award Challenge is part of the "energy solutions – made in Germany" initiative sponsored by the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy to recognize the positive impact German businesses and technologies have in the US.

Current market trends suggest that building owners and managers will invest \$960 billion between now and 2023 on "greening" their existing infrastructure. Colin Rohlfing, Director of Sustainable Development at HDR Inc., who made the opening remarks on sustainable trends during the morning session, noted that the four finalists are prime examples of energy efficiency trends in the building and construction industry - including the use of more controls & monitoring, climate resiliency plans, a push toward Net Zero buildings and more occupant comfort. German standards in the building sector are pushing American design firms to do better in terms of energy efficiency. This was highlighted by a presentation of Werner Sobek's Activhaus B10 pilot project in Stuttgart presented by Viola Kosseda at WSNY, Inc.

Given German leadership in this space, there are many opportunities for collaboration, including those represented by the Award Finalists:

- **Airleader Compressor Management** - installed their master controller at the Spring Lake facility in Michigan of Herman Miller to increase the efficiency and reliability of its compressor system.
- **Baumann Consulting** - developed the Integrated Energy Master Plan (IEMP) for the City of Holland, Michigan.
- **INTEP** - designed North America's first certified Passive House, the Waldsee BioHaus in the Concordia Language Village's German campus near Bemidji, Minnesota.
- **Schüco** - supplied the intelligent façade system, which had a key role in achieving the net-zero energy goals of the Bullitt Center in Seattle, Washington by significantly reducing loads to the building HVAC system.

While President Obama hosted a discussion about the Supreme Court at the University of Chicago School of Law, attendees of the Award Challenge visited the University's Mansueto Library across campus where they were joined by representatives of JAHN Architects, LLC and seele, Inc. The library exemplifies architecturally compelling design and energy efficiency from Germany.



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The day concluded with the Award Ceremony & Networking Reception where the winner of the Energy Efficiency Award Challenge was announced and celebrated. During the Award Ceremony, W. David Braun, Chairman, GACC Midwest, highlighted the opportunities arising from energy efficiency for both sides of the Atlantic: "GACC Midwest has acted as a catalyst for German-American business and innovation for over 50 years. Our finalists are part of a wider success story: Germany has established itself as an international market leader and innovation driver in the fields of energy efficiency and green building."

With its longstanding focus on energy efficiency in the built environment, GACC Midwest will host a business conference on Sustainability in Healthcare Facilities on **Tuesday, September 20, 2016**.

About Airleader

Airleader is a compressor management system from WF Steuerungstechnik GmbH, represented in the US by SIGA Development LLC DBA Airleader. Airleader has sold more than 10,000 controllers and is a household name in Germany. Their monitoring system performs as a continuous Air Energy Audit as required by ISO 50001 and allows the monitoring of air quality as defined in ISO 8573-2010, and provides other system reliability data and assures long-term effectiveness.

About GACC Midwest

The German American Chamber of Commerce® of the Midwest (GACC Midwest), headquartered in Chicago with a branch office in Detroit, was founded in 1963. GACC Midwest is an integral part of the network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) with 130 offices in 90 countries around the globe. Our continuing mission is to further, promote, and assist in the expansion of bilateral trade and investment between Germany and the United States, especially the Midwest. Our organization combines elements of a trade commission, a membership association, and a professional consultancy - quite a unique concept in international trade promotion.

For more information on the 2016 Energy Efficiency Award Challenge, please contact Svenja Schroeder at (312) 561-9791 or schroeder@gaccmidwest.org.