

Good morning, everyone. It is a great honor to have all of you here with us today as we celebrate this important milestone for Aermec North America.

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to recognize the many people who have joined us today and who have contributed to making project BIG LAKES possible.

First, please join me in welcoming **Mr. Manny Lopez**, Assistant Deputy Director of the Office of Regional Economic Development at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. **Manny**, thank you for joining us today on behalf of the State of Illinois.

Let me welcome **Illinois State Senator Mrs Sue Rezin**, Senator **Sue** thank you for joining us.

I would also like to welcome **State Representative Jeff Keicher**, representing Illinois' 70th District, and **State Representative Amy "Murri" Briel**, representing Illinois' 76th District.

And from the City of DeKalb, we are very pleased to have with us **City Manager Dr. Bill Nicklas** and **5th Ward Alderman Andre Powell**.

Please join me in giving all of our state and local government leaders a warm round of applause.

I would also like to recognize several partners who played an important role when we were evaluating Illinois as the home for this new investment. Their time, expertise and commitment to this region were instrumental in helping us reach this day.

From our education partners, please welcome **Mr. Richard Mocarski** of Northern Illinois University and **Ms. LaCretia Konan** of Kishwaukee College.

From our business community, I would like to recognize **Ms. Kelly Gillespie** of Express Employment Professionals and **Ms. Karshawn Espy** Director of 3M.

I also want to thank **Mr Michael Yucuis** and **Ms. Renee Wott** from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, **Mr. Sean Henrick** from Cushman & Wakefield, **Ms. Laura Moran** and **Mrs. Josephine Nwachukwu** from Andersen, as well as my colleagues **Ms. Katharine Harris** from Aermec North America and **Mr. Luigi Rossettini** from Aermec S.p.A. in Italy.

I also want to thank **Mr. Mark Goode** from Venture One and **Mr. Paul Chuma** from Meridian and all their teams led by **Mr. Steve Miller** and **Mr. Chad Johnson**.

And I cannot forget someone who has supported this project from the very beginning — and continues to do so with extraordinary passion and commitment: **Mrs. Melissa Amedeo, Executive Director of Dekalb County Economic Development Corporation.** Melissa, thank you very much for everything you have done for us.

Please join me in thanking all of these partners for their support and partnership.

I also want to take a moment to thank the **Riello family — Our President Alessandro and Vice-President Raffaella, and their sons Giordano and Lorenzo** — for their vision, their commitment and their courage to invest in the United States and to make this project a reality. This investment is a reflection of their long-term vision for Aermec and for North America.

And I would also like to remember the late **Mr. Giordano Riello, the founder of Aermec**, who is no longer with us. On Monday, October 19th, we will celebrate two very important anniversaries: **his 100th birthday and the 65th anniversary of the foundation of Aermec.** For all of us, Giordano Riello has been a guide, an inspiration and a reference point for many years. His vision and entrepreneurial spirit continue to live on in all the Giordano Riello International Group today.

Finally, I want to thank my wife, **Connie**, for the support she has given me throughout this very important challenge — moving with our entire family to the United States and taking on the responsibility of guiding Aermec North America and the Big Lakes project.

Thank you, Connie.

Today marks much more than the beginning of construction of a new facility. **It marks the beginning of a new chapter for Aermec in North America.**

Aermec has been serving customers across the United States and Canada for more than 20 years, bringing quality, engineering expertise and innovation to the market.

This investment is the natural evolution of that long-standing commitment — and, above all, it is a response to the needs and expectations of our customers.

By establishing a manufacturing presence here in North America, we will be able to be even closer to our customers, reduce lead times, increase our responsiveness, and further strengthen our aftermarket and service capabilities.

But this facility will be much more than a manufacturing plant.

It will be a place where **Italian engineering, American manufacturing and local talent come together** to create solutions for the North American market.

Our decision to locate this investment in Illinois was driven by a combination of factors.

First and foremost, the outstanding support and collaboration we received from **DeKalb County and the State of Illinois**.

We were impressed by the people we met, by their willingness to work with us, and by the commitment of both state and local government to making this investment happen.

The opportunities and incentives provided by the State and the Dekalb County, the speed with which we can bring this investment to completion, and the strategic logistics of this location were also very important factors.

And so was the access to education and talent, with leading institutions such as **Northern Illinois University** and **Kishwaukee College** right here in the region.

The North America area is particularly well suited to our business. A significant part of our offering is focused on **heat pump technology**, and one of Aermec's key strengths has always been our ability to engineer and customize solutions around the specific needs of each customer.

Being located here will allow us to combine that flexibility and engineering heritage with **local manufacturing, local engineering, local service and customer support**.

And, of course, we will bring with us something that is deeply rooted in who we are:
the heritage, the quality and innovation of Made in Italy.

We are proud to begin this journey here in DeKalb.

We are excited about the jobs and opportunities this project will create, about the partnerships we will build, and about the contribution we can make to this community and to the wider Northern Illinois region.

Most importantly, we are excited about what we will build together — with our customers, our partners, our employees and this community.

Today, we are not simply breaking ground on a new building.

We are laying the foundation for the future of Aermec in North America.

Thank you very much.

— Luca Martini, Managing Director, Aermec North America