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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Gov. Pat Quinn Congratulates 2009 Edie Award Winners  
at Illinois Chamber Annual Meeting**

*Illinois Chamber, Illinois Development Council Present "Edies" to Recognize those who Imagine, Design, Invest, Build and Bring Jobs, Growth and Prosperity to Illinois Communities*

Chicago, IL – Five Illinois Economic Development projects were presented with Edie Awards at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting in Chicago last week; Governor Pat Quinn, keynote speaker for the luncheon meeting, praised their accomplishments in creating jobs and investing in Illinois.

Edie Awards (E-D, for Economic Development) are given jointly by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Development Council (IDC) to recognize economic development projects throughout Illinois that were completed last year. Winners were notified in May, and officials representing each winner were invited to receive their awards at the Chamber's annual meeting at the Hilton Hotel.

Though the Illinois Chamber and IDC spend time and resources advocating policies to make Illinois a better place to do business, both organizations believe it's also important to showcase recent accomplishments -- especially when they translated into more jobs, tax base and economic vitality in our state.

"These companies and the local economic development teams are in the trenches across the state, creating jobs and investing in our communities," said Mark Williams, chairman of the Illinois Development Council. "These successful projects are too often overlooked and we wanted to take a moment and reinforce the notion that economic development like this is central to keeping our state vibrant and healthy."

The Edie Awards have up to fifteen categories based on geography (City of Chicago, Metropolitan Chicago or statewide projects) and development type: manufacturing, commercial, energy, technology and transportation/distribution. The Illinois Chamber and IDC asked for nominations from across the state for development projects completed in 2008 in any of those categories and had a joint awards committee review the nominees and determine the projects most worthy of an Edie Award.

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The five winners of the 2009 Edie Award are as diverse as Illinois' economy, including:

- **ComEd** – invested \$345 million and eight years of construction to build a new substation in Chicago's West Loop that adds greater flexibility and redundancy in terms of bulk power flow and allows ComEd to better manage its transmission grid and network of substations that serve the heart of Chicago and the state's economic engine.
- **Horizon Wind Energy** – invested \$600 million to create the Twin Groves Wind Farm in McLean County. Spread out over 4.4 square miles and consisting of 240 wind turbines gracefully dotting the eastern horizon of McLean County, the project was built in an enterprise zone and brought about 225 to 245 full-time construction jobs and about 45 full-time operation and maintenance jobs. The project can generate 396 megawatts of electricity that can power 120,000 homes with clean energy.
- **Kimberly-Clark** – invested \$12 million in a 750,000 square-foot distribution center in ProLogis Park in Romeoville that helped retain and create jobs and solidify the future potential of the distribution industry along the I-55 corridor.
- **PRC Partners** – invested more than \$100 million to create the Uptown Park Ridge Redevelopment. Working closely with the City of Park Ridge, who also invested more than \$30 million in the project, PRC Partners created a mix-used development that eliminated the physical and symbolic gap between Park Ridge's downtown train station and its Uptown area. It provides several new blocks of retail that reinforce the multi-block walking, shopping, and dining experience of Uptown.
- **UPM Raflatac, Inc.** – invested \$109 million in a new pressure sensitive label stock manufacturing facility and distribution center in Dixon after a multi-state search covering 92 potential locations, including a final win against a site in Northwest Indiana. There are 115 employees working at the 287,000 square-foot plant.

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*The Illinois Chamber of Commerce promotes the interests of Illinois business by working to improve the state's business climate. The Illinois Chamber aggressively advocates legislation and public policies that support economic growth, and is a source of timely and reliable information on matters important to its members, Illinois employers and the general public. The Illinois Chamber also provides effective programs and services to its 3,500+ members to meet their business needs, including immediate answers to tax and human resources concerns and access to training and consulting services.*

*The Illinois Development Council (IDC) is an organization composed of nearly 300 professional economic developers who work together to create cooperative marketing initiatives, professional development, government advocacy and networking opportunities. IDC's mission statement is to be an organization that "...strives to build relationships, professionalism, and a positive atmosphere in which to create jobs and wealth in Illinois." [www.ildevelopmentcouncil.org](http://www.ildevelopmentcouncil.org)*

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