



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Technological Showcase

**1<sup>st</sup> electrical autoguided vehicle in operation in a Quebec aluminium smelter**

**Montreal, May, 10 2019** – In the presence of the Minister of the Economy and Innovation, Mr. Pierre Fitzgibbon, Ms. Éloïse Harvey, B. Eng. & Mgmt, President of Mecfor takes advantage of the '*Forum Manufacturier innovant*' in Montreal to announce the deployment of a technological showcase, for which the Government of Quebec has granted \$ 350K to test the AGV TEAM prototype (acronym for "Transporteur Électrique d'Autoguidé Mecfor") in real operational conditions in a Quebec aluminum smelter.

This R & D project for the Quebec equipment manufacturer, leader in North America for specialized mobile equipment for aluminum smelters, represents a capital investment of \$ 1.5M, to which is added the financial support of \$ 1,1M from both levels of government.

The Government of Quebec has injected a total of \$ 810K, of which \$ 350K is dedicated to setting up the technological showcase promoting the potential of a Quebec company in a field as sharp and promising as autoguided vehicles with electric motorization in heavy industrial sectors. The showcase will demonstrate Mecfor's AGV TEAM technology to potential customers from around the world over the next six months.

At the moment, the AGV TEAM prototype transports molten metal crucibles. The final goal of this technological showcase is that the AGV TEAM be completely autonomous and operating in real conditions of operation 24/7, executing metal flow orders coming from the aluminium smelter.

Not only does the AGV TEAM fit into the spirit of Industry 4.0, but it also aims to reduce the environmental footprint of aluminum producers. Moreover, in a context of great shortage of skilled labor, these vehicles will meet a crying need. Current vehicle operators will be assigned to other crucial plant tasks. AGV TEAM is therefore a solution to several challenges in the industry.



Quote:

“We are proud to see our AGV TEAM, designed and manufactured here in Quebec, operating in a local aluminium smelter. It is the culmination of many years of research and effort. We see how this project is a mobilizing commitment to the sustainability and vitality of one of the jewels of our economy, the primary production of aluminum. Not to mention that AGV TEAM uses our renewable energy resource: electricity. ”

Éloise Harvey, B. Eng. & Mgmt, President, Mecfor Inc.

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### **About Mecfor Inc.**

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Based in Saguenay, Quebec, Mecfor specializes in the designing and manufacturing equipment for the aluminium smelter, mining and metals and rail industries. Its customer-centric approach as well as its production capacity allow for a great flexibility of adaptation according to the needs of operation. From a regional solutions provider in 1997, the company grew to become a global supplier with more than 670 equipment in operation in nearly 20 countries. Recognized for its high standards, Mecfor delivers sturdy and reliable equipment that meets customer needs. To learn more, visit [www.mecfor.com](http://www.mecfor.com).

### **Highlights on AGV TEAM**

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#### **Access to technology: a decisive criterion**

To develop AGV TEAM, Mecfor has brought in the knowledge and expertise of Amerden AGVs, a technology partner. There are several reasons for this selection, one of which being that Amerden AGVs offers the best synergy between equipment manufacturer and integrator of AGV technology from Kollmorgen (NDC8 technology). With more than 20,000 AGV vehicles in operation in various industries, Kollmorgen has emerged as the world leader in AGV solutions. AGV TEAM is based on quality, technical support, accessibility to resources, all with the goal of providing peace of mind to customers.



### **Security and reliability: priorities at all times**

The equipment complies with ANSI / ITSDf B56.5-2012 Safety Standard for Driverless, Automatic Guided Industrial Vehicles and Automated Functions of Manned Industrial Vehicles, to which Amerden AGVs is actively involved as well as the European standard BS EN 1525: 1998 Safety of industrial trucks - Driverless trucks and their systems.

Prior to its commissioning, the AGV TEAM underwent a third-party machine safety review to ensure that nothing was left to chance.

### **Design and power for harsh environments**

AGV TEAM can carry loads up to 34 MT. The vehicle benefits from a 9kW electric motor with opportunity charging as well as a wheel arrangement ensuring a stable displacement, and this, despite the roughness of floors that may be found in industrial plants. Additional shielding, dust protection, component modifications were installed / realized to ensure optimal results for all guiding and safety components on our prototype during manufacturing.

- Photos and video of Mecfor AGV TEAM are available through download from this link: [XXXXXX](#)
  
- **Source** : Mecfor
  
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