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Ameren Illinois Wins 2025 AEIC Achievement Award

Custom Bot Improves Operational Efficiencies in Fleet Services Payment Processing

Collinsville, IL— November 6, 2025 — The [Association of Edison Illuminating Companies](#) (AEIC), the electric utility industry’s leading authority for operational excellence, announced today that [Ameren Illinois](#) has received one of the Association’s 2025 Achievement Awards.

The AEIC Achievement Awards are presented annually to member companies who have clearly demonstrated significant contributions to advancing operational excellence in the electric utility industry.

Ameren Illinois was recognized for implementing a solution using robotic process automation (RPA) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to reduce inefficiencies for processing and paying vendor invoices. The Ameren Illinois Fleet Services team partnered with the Ameren Center for Automation to develop a bot—affectionately named DW—that automatically extracts key data from the invoices and stores it in a shared file. Employees then review a validation screen to ensure accuracy, maintaining strong internal controls and accounting standards.

“Ameren has been focused on utilizing new technology to gain efficiencies wherever possible,” said Patrick Smith, Senior Vice President, Operations and Technical Services. “This project exemplifies how our teams are applying strategic thinking, cross-functional collaboration, and new technologies to improve work processes in ways that benefit our employees, vendor partners, and customers.”

This solution saved approximately 3,000 hours of manual data entry annually and significantly reduced human error, such as number transpositions and missed entries. It also allowed employees to reduce stress and improved work-life balance by shifting their focus to strategic initiatives and career development.

“Grid transformation requires new ways of thinking about how to improve efficiencies and achieve operational excellence,” said Steve Hauser, CEO, AEIC. “Through this innovative project, Ameren Illinois demonstrates that AEIC members are driving innovation across all areas of utility operations.”

Ameren Illinois was presented with the award on Friday, November 6th at AEIC’s 141st Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC. To see a full list of 2025 AEIC Achievement Award recipients, visit <https://aeic.org/achievement-awards/>.

About AEIC

AEIC brings together the electric utility industry’s leading operations experts to rise to challenges, accelerate opportunities, and achieve excellence in all aspects of generation, transmission, distribution, and storage of electric power for the benefit of its members, the industry at large, and consumers, worldwide.

Founded by Thomas Edison and his associates in 1885, AEIC is the electric utility industry’s longest-serving and preeminent association. Today, AEIC’s members work closely together to share knowledge and provide guidance to the industry essential to achieving a modernized grid that delivers a secure energy future for all. To learn more about AEIC, its technical committees, and member companies, visit <https://aeic.org/>.

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