Release Date: Thursday, November 3rd 2016

ENERGY FLOW, AN INNOVATIVE LIGHTING DISPLAY, MAKES WORLD PREMIERE ON RACHEL CARSON BRIDGE ON COMCAST LIGHT UP NIGHT®

Pittsburghers will see the Rachel Carson Bridge (9th Street Bridge) shine on Comcast Light Up Night®, Friday November 18 and throughout the rest of the holiday season with a custom art installation that highlights Pittsburgh energy innovation, said Mayor William Peduto at a Downtown Pittsburgh Holiday Season media event this morning hosted by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

Mayor Peduto provided more details about Energy Flow, the temporary lighting installation on the bridge announced earlier this summer as part of the city’s year-long bicentennial celebration. Energy Flow is a collaboration between environmental artist Andrea Polli and Ron Gdovic of WindStax, a Pittsburgh-based wind turbine manufacturer. Energy Flow was selected by the Pittsburgh Bicentennial Steering Commission after a national call for bridge lighting ideas to celebrate the city’s bicentennial.

With financial support from Covestro, LLC and logistical support from Duquesne Light Company and Allegheny County, Energy Flow’s environmental art installation will debut to the public on the Rachel Carson Bridge during the 2016 Comcast Light Up Night® celebration on Friday, November 18 beginning at dusk.

“For a long time, the Sister Bridges have been a symbol to people far and wide of our city, county and region,” said Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. “We’re excited to support the Pittsburgh 200 celebration by making the Rachel Carson Bridge available for this effort and look forward to seeing the final results of this unique collaboration.”

“Energy Flow is an appropriate tribute to the legacy of Rachel Carson, the Pittsburgh environmental pioneer for whom the 9th Street Bridge is named, and a tribute to this city of innovation,” said Mayor Peduto. “Ron and Andrea will create what’s called a ‘microgrid’ powered by wind to illuminate one of our iconic bridges with beautiful LED lights. It’s a perfect celebration of our historic past and our future as a leader in technology and culture. You won’t want to miss seeing it for yourself shining over the Allegheny River.”

Sixteen wind turbines specially designed for the project and a weather station that captures data about wind speed are being installed on the bridge this week. Strips of over 27,000 multicolored LED lights running up the bridge’s vertical cables will be installed as the next phase of the project.

“Covestro is proud to be part of the Bicentennial year events and to celebrate with the city we have called home for more than 60 years,” said Bob Walker, Covestro media representative. “This colorful lighting display and its use of renewable energy so perfectly capture our vision at Covestro – to create a cleaner, brighter future through innovative technologies. We’re proud to share that vision with the Pittsburgh region.”

The Pittsburgh Bicentennial Commission’s Bridge Committee was co-chaired by Jay Sukernek, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Riverlife, and Jeremy Waldrup, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. The committee spent months planning and working towards the ultimate goal of a bridge lighting for the Bicentennial Celebration. Comcast Light Up Night® is the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership’s annual event that heralds the start of the holiday season and was a natural fit for debuting the Energy Flow special lighting installation.

“Comcast Light Up Night® showcases Pittsburgh at its best during the holiday season,” said Waldrup. “The lighting display on the Rachel Carson Bridge will be a can’t-miss addition to the exciting lineup of events and attractions in Downtown on November 18 and throughout the rest of the holiday season.”

For more information about the project and to view a behind-the-scenes video, please visit www.riverlifepgh.org/energyflow.

ABOUT THE BICENTENNIAL STEERING COMMISSION
The Pittsburgh Bicentennial Commission was organized and is chaired by Mayor William Peduto and co-chaired by Dr. Andy Masich, President and CEO of the John H. Heinz History Center. Nearly 30 business and community leaders are part of the Steering Commission, including community and non-profit organizations.

ABOUT THE PITTSBURGH BICENTENNIAL
The Pittsburgh Bicentennial is a yearlong celebration of the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Pittsburgh, giving citizens opportunity for self-governance. Pittsburgh was incorporated as a city on March 18, 1816. Mayor William Peduto formed the Pittsburgh Bicentennial Commission to recognize and celebrate the anniversary with unique and collaborative partnerships. Over 200 organizations, companies, nonprofits and individuals are participating in the yearlong celebration. For more information visit www.pgh200.com, follow @PGHbicentennial on Twitter for follow the hashtag #PGH200.

ABOUT COVESTRO LLC
Covestro LLC is one of the leading producers of high-performance polymers in North America and is part of the global Covestro business with 2015 sales of EUR 12.1 billion. Covestro manufactures high-tech polymer materials and develops innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, electrical and electronics, construction, medical and sports and leisure industries. The Covestro group has 30 production sites around the globe and employed approximately 15,800 people at the end of 2015.

ABOUT DUQUESNE LIGHT
Duquesne Light Company is committed to more than keeping the lights on; it powers the moments in its customers’ lives. As a next generation energy company, Duquesne Light Company’s nearly 1,500 employees are dedicated to delivering reliable and safe energy to more than a half a million customers in southwestern Pennsylvania.

ABOUT ANDREA POLLI
Andrea Polli is a writer and environmental artist adept at using the mercurial qualities of air and light to create original artworks. She has exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Artport and the Field Museum of Natural History. Polli holds a Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her doctorate in computing, communications and electronics from the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom.

ABOUT WINDSTAX
WindStax® Wind Power Systems is a full-service wind power company. We design and manufacture our own unique brand of plug-and-play wind power systems for residential and commercial off-grid, microgrid, and supplemental stationary power requirements. WindStax Wind Power Systems incorporates many industry firsts – including high-performance energy management in a self-contained and reliable green energy system that is easy to own and operate.
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