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WM Group's Hemant Mehta Named NYAEE's Energy Engineer of the Year

NEW YORK CITY, June 16 -- The New York Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers (NYAEE) last night named Hemant Mehta, P.E., the chapter's Energy Engineer of the Year during its 23rd annual awards gala in New York City.

"We chose Hemant Mehta to receive this prestigious award based on his outstanding accomplishments in promoting the practices, principles and procedures of energy engineering," said Fredric S. Goldner, C.E.M., awards chair and past chapter and international association president. "Every year we confer four to five awards to individuals or projects, but this is one of our highest honors. We only select the cream of the crop."

The chapter calls for award nominations from among its membership each year. The chapter's awards committee evaluates all nominees, carefully analyzing each candidate's qualifications and accomplishments. Past chapter Energy Engineer of the Year award winners include Alfred Greenberg, who was chapter president 1982-1989; John Leffler, current NYAEE board member; Charles Copeland, president and CEO of Goldman Copeland Associates; and others. The fact that in 18 of the past 20 years *at least* one past New York Chapter award winner has gone on to receive an international level award from AEE is a testament to the stringent selection process.

"It's certainly an honor to be recognized for doing what I love to do," says Hemant Mehta, president of WM Group Engineers. "Saving energy is a passion, so the more concrete results I see, the better. For example, at NYU's Langone Medical Center we were able to help them cut their peak demand by nearly a megawatt and save \$460,000 a year in energy costs."

Mehta is considered an expert in utility master planning with vast experience in optimizing plant performance and improving plant efficiencies. He has managed more than 100 central utility projects throughout his 35-year career. His recommendations have enabled many facilities to save millions in capital and operating costs.

"For many organizations the fixes are relatively straightforward with quick paybacks," says Mehta. "But it's not just equipment upgrades that make the difference, it's operating strategies. I love to teach operators how to continuously optimize their systems. The better trained they are, the more savings they will be able to accrue over the long run. Teaching them upfront how to look at their systems as a whole – the production, distribution and utilization of energy together – allows them to make their own adjustments year after year."

Mehta founded New York City-based WM Group Engineers in 2000. The company emphasizes "smart solutions that work." For more on WM Group, visit www.wmgrouppeng.com.

The Association of Energy Engineers was founded in 1977. AEE's mission is "to promote the scientific and educational interests of those engaged in the energy industry and to foster action for Sustainable Development." Founded in the mid-1980s, the New York Chapter was one of the first of AEE's 71 chapters worldwide and is one of the largest and most active. For more on the New York Chapter of AEE, visit www.aeeny.org.

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