



June 13, 2019

## Winners of the 2019 McRock IIoT Awards Announced

**Toronto, Ontario--(June 13, 2019)** - [McRock Capital](#), a leading venture capital fund manager focused exclusively on the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), announced the 2019 winners of the annual McRock IIoT Awards during its 8th Annual McRock IIoT Symposium in Montreal. The 2019 McRock IIoT Awards recognizes organizations and individuals in three categories: IIoT Corporate Leader of the Year, IIoT Entrepreneur of the Year, and IIoT Diversity Leader of the Year. The 2019 winners were selected by an industry-led judging committee.

### McRock IIoT Corporate Leader of the Year

This award is presented to a corporation driving IIoT adoption by demonstrating a unique and successful IIoT solution internally or with a customer. Aspen Technology (AspenTech) is awarded the McRock IIoT Corporate Leader of the Year 2018.



From its founding in 1981 out of an MIT and U.S. Department of Energy research project, innovation has remained at the core of AspenTech for more than three decades. The company has pushed technology boundaries with dozens of patents and industry firsts and has grown into a global industry leader with 30 offices around the world on six continents serving over 2,200 energy, chemical, engineering and other capital-intensive manufacturing customers. It has generated US\$500M in revenue in its last full fiscal year with a recent market capitalization of US\$8.0B. Led by CEO Antonio Pietri, AspenTech has been driving towards the IIoT by developing process-specific analytics built into its aspenONE asset optimization software suites. Since 2016, the company has made several strategic transactions in the IIoT and industrial analytics space including the acquisitions of Fidelis Group, Mtell, Apex Optimization, ProMV multivariate analysis software, and RtTech's Cipher IIoT cloud-native software and edge connectivity technology. Combining internal development efforts, partnerships, and this series of well-targeted acquisitions in the IIoT space, the company is well positioned to deliver on its vision to help optimize asset performance across capital-intensive industries. Leveraging the latest AI, machine learning, cognitive guidance and cloud-based technologies, AspenTech has opened a new chapter in which industrial customers are now able to democratize the decision-making process, redefine what is possible, and combine emerging and proven technologies to drive operational excellence to new heights.

"We are honored to receive McRock's IIoT Corporate Leader of the Year award," said Antonio Pietri, president & CEO of Aspen Technology. "We have always focused on applying innovation in ways that can

best ensure customer success. Today, our mission is to accelerate the digital transformation of our customers as they strive to understand how best to take advantage of the latest IIoT technologies. As we explore new ways to embed AI and machine learning into our asset optimization software, the decisions we make will always be guided by the measure of how effectively we can impact customer success.”

### **McRock IIoT Entrepreneur of the Year**

This award is presented to an individual that has experienced success in the IIoT as a founder and/or business leader in setting strategy, a developer creating a product, and everything in between. Verdigris Technologies Co-founder & CEO , Mark Chung, is awarded the McRock IIoT Entrepreneur of the Year 2019.



Mark Chung is one of three co-founders and the CEO of Verdigris Technologies. Verdigris is a leader in disruptive Industrial IoT based energy management for large manufacturers. Mark was recognized as one the 40 under 40 in 2017 by Silicon Valley Business Journal. He leads business strategy at Verdigris and sits on the advisory board of a number of Startups. Mark held previous roles as principal engineer at several successful Silicon Valley technology start-ups including NexGen, Pasemi, RMI and NetLogic which was acquired by Broadcom in 2011 for \$3.7 billion.

“I am extremely honored to be receiving the McRock IIoT Entrepreneur of the Year Award,” said Mark Chung, Co-founder; CEO of Verdigris Technologies. “The innovative work of our brilliant team and tier1 OEM partners inspires me daily. Recent validated success with key customers means Verdigris AI is destined to transform Industrial IoT in the coming year.”

### **McRock IIoT Diversity Leader of the Year**

The award is presented to an organization in the IIoT space that has demonstrated a consistent pattern of breaking barriers to promote workplace diversity and inclusion initiatives. Cisco Systems is awarded McRock IIoT Diversity Leader of the Year 2019.



For 21 years in a row, Cisco has been ranked on Fortune’s 100 Best Companies to Work For list. Diversity and inclusion are foundational to Cisco’s culture. The company is at the forefront of leveraging IOT and digitization to transform how it solves for diversity, inclusion and equity. Recent examples include Diverse Talent Accelerators, a suite of digital solutions integrated with business intelligence that transforms how the company finds, attracts and accelerates diverse top talent, and Cisco LifeChanger, a groundbreaking solution that combines Cisco’s voice, video and collaboration technologies with accessibility technology to remove barriers to employment for people with disabilities. The company is currently in the early stages

of exploring the implications of emerging technologies, such as AI, robotics, machine learning and virtual reality, on the future of work in the digital era.

“We are extremely honored to be recognized by McRock as IIoT Diversity Leader of the Year. Digitization is creating an unprecedented opportunity for people and things to connect, collaborate and participate, which will exponentially increase the value and impact of diversity and inclusion inside our organizations. There has never been a more exciting time to be doing this important work, especially for a company like Cisco that is at the forefront of IoT,” said Shari Slate, Cisco’s Chief Inclusion and Collaboration Officer.

**About McRock Capital** – McRock is the first dedicated Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) venture capital fund focused on the intersection of machine data and analytics software in large industrial markets and Smart Cities. The McRock team has a unique background of building high-growth venture-backed IIoT companies while also having worked in the power, water, oil and gas industries. McRock is backed by several leading institutional investors as well as Cisco Systems, Électricité de France (EDF), and Caterpillar.

Visit [www.mcrockcapital.com](http://www.mcrockcapital.com) and follow on Twitter [@McRockCapital](https://twitter.com/McRockCapital).