

Crowning the 'Gems of Asia'

~ 27 Titles, 21 Companies Named the Region's Best at the 2006 Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific ICT Awards ~

Singapore, June 16, 2006 -- Saluting Asia Pacific's finest ICT (information and communications technology) companies, global growth consulting company, Frost & Sullivan today hosted the 2006 Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific ICT Awards. Held for the third consecutive year, the Awards seek to recognize companies and individuals that have pushed the boundaries of excellence - rising above the competition and demonstrating outstanding performance in the ICT industry across the region for base year 2005.

Twenty-seven prestigious titles were conferred at the 2006 Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific ICT Awards banquet which was attended by some of the region's star acts and most influential leaders in the ICT industry.

The deserving recipients were selected following a meticulous process in which a team of some 30 leading Frost & Sullivan analysts short listed, researched and evaluated the top contenders in each category, applying the same thorough approach that has been the hallmark of Frost & Sullivan globally.

The findings of the detailed evaluation were then presented to an independent panel of judges comprising influential personalities, decision makers and thought leaders in Asia Pacific's ICT industry, who have in themselves pushed the boundaries of innovation and corporate excellence, in deciding the recipients in each award category.

A total of over 70 prominent ICT players, regulatory bodies, and telecommunications companies operating across 14 countries in the region were short listed as top challengers and appraised for their performance in financial year 2005, before 21 illustrious companies made the 'A-list' of award recipients.

Manoj Menon, partner at Frost & Sullivan, said, "The Asia Pacific ICT industry has made terrific progress in 2005. Growth has returned as a key agenda for companies. We have seen some outstanding performances by both local as well as multinational companies in driving business growth in the region. Increasingly, companies in Asia Pacific are setting global best practices in innovation, service and business strategies for the global ICT industry.

"We are delighted to be able to share and showcase these best practices with the industry. Benchmarked against the highest standards of measurement criteria, the recipients of these awards indeed represent the best-in-class, and are suitably hailed the Gems of Asia," he added.

The wild cards

The evening held surprises for some. What started out as a bid for 25 of the most coveted titles in ICT saw two more awards being added based on the unanimous decision of the judges. These two awards were conferred following deadlock debates in some closely contested categories. The wild cards were: 2006 Wireless Data Service Provider of the Year which was awarded to SK Telecom; and the Ministry of Information and Communication Republic of Korea which was recognized with an award for Outstanding Contribution to Industry Development.

Hat tricks

Some of the evening's most celebrated stars were: SingTel which received the 2006 Service Provider of the Year Award, marking the third consecutive year in which it has received this same honor; and SAS which clinched the Business Intelligence Vendor of the Year for the third year running.

Hat tricks for a different reason - Huawei Technologies and Bharti Airtel Limited bagged three awards each this year.

Huawei also managed the same feat last year making it the only company to have ever done so twice, consecutively or otherwise, since the Awards was first introduced in 2004. Huawei which was named the Most Promising Vendor of the Year in 2004 also delivered on the promise by bagging the 2006 Vendor of the Year Award.

One of the three titles awarded to Bharti Airtel was the 2006 CEO of the Year in the Service Provider category, for which its CEO, Sunil Bharti Mittal was named the recipient. Mittal, who was at the banquet to accept his award, also received this same honor in 2004.

Other multi-award recipients were Avaya and SK Telecom, with each taking home two awards.

All contenders were evaluated based on a variety of actual market performance indicators which include revenue growth, market share and growth in market share, leadership in product innovation, breadth of products and solutions, major customer acquisitions, and business and market strategy, amongst other category-specific criteria.

Saluting Asia Pacific's Best ICT Companies

Frost & Sullivan congratulates all the outstanding recipients of the 2006 Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific ICT Awards

Category

Award Recipient

Telecom Vendor Category

Next Generation Network Infrastructure Vendor of the Year	Alcatel
Optical Vendor of the Year	Huawei Technologies
Broadband Equipment Vendor of the Year	Huawei Technologies
Wireless Infrastructure Vendor of the Year	Ericsson
Telecom BSS Vendor of the Year	Comverse

Service Provider Category

Wireless Service Provider of the Year	Bharti Airtel
Wireless Data Service Provider of the Year	SK Telecom
Competitive Service Provider of the Year	Bharti Airtel
Next Generation Network Service Provider of the Year	PCCW
Broadband Service Provider of the Year	KT Corporation
Mobile Content Developer of the Year	Index Corporation
Data Communications Service Provider of the Year	Asia Netcom
Satellite Communications Service Provider of the Year	Shin Satellite

Enterprise Vendor Category

Business Intelligence Vendor of the Year	SAS
Operational CRM Vendor of the Year	SAP
Enterprise Telephony Vendor of the Year	Avaya
Contact Center Applications Vendor of the Year	Avaya
Contact Center Outsourcing Vendor of the Year	IBM Daksh
Enterprise Security Vendor of the Year	Symantec

Best of the Best

Most Innovative Application/Product of the Year	i-Kids by SK Telecom
Most Promising Vendor of the Year	D-Link
Vendor of the Year	Huawei Technologies
CEO of the Year: Service Provider	Sunil Bharti Mittal - Bharti Airtel
Most Promising Service Provider of the Year	SoftBank
Service Provider of the Year	SingTel
Regulator of the Year	Office of the Telecommunications Authority, Hong Kong
Outstanding Contribution to Industry Development	Ministry of Information and Communication Republic of Korea

On the panel of judges were:

1. Manoj Menon - Partner, Frost & Sullivan
2. Sin Siew Teyew - Head of Telecoms Research, Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific
3. Nitin Acharekar - Head of Enterprise Research, Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific
4. John Lui – Editor, MIS Asia
5. Sunil Kapoor – CIO, Fortis Healthcare
6. Stephen Beacham – Regional IT Director, BAX Global Asia Pacific
7. Ahmad Azhar Yahya – Group CIO, Telekom Malaysia
8. Chu Hong Keong – CIO, HSBC Malaysia
9. Raju Buddharaju - CIO/CTO & Director National Library Board, Singapore
10. Nathan Bell – General Manager, Products & Services, BT Asia Pacific
11. Wilfred Kwan – CTO, Asia Netcom
12. Arvind Mathur – CTO, Bharti Airtel
13. David Nishball – Senior VP, Sales & Marketing, Equant
14. John Mulligan – CTO / CIO, AT&T Asia Pacific
15. Joseph Waring - Group Editor Telecom Asia, Wireless Asia, Telecoms Europe
16. Nick Hutton – Chief Marketing Officer, Alcatel Asia Pacific
17. Rudi Frey - President & CEO Siemens Com FN, Asia Pacific
18. Hu Yong - VP, Global Corporate Marketing Huawei Technologies
19. Andy Miller – Director of Marketing, Juniper Networks Asia Pacific
20. Phillip Beniac – Vice President, SAS Asia Pacific
21. Idris Vasi – Managing Director, SP Alliances, Partnerships & Strategy, Cisco Systems, Asia Pacific

The 2006 Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific ICT Awards is supported by CommunicAsia 2006 and EnterpriseIT 2006, and is hosted in thematic collaboration with exquisite watchmaker, Ebel - purveyor of haute joaillerie collection, 'Gems of the Ocean' and 'Gems of the Night'.

Media partners of the awards are Telecom Asia, Wireless Asia and MIS Asia. Featured nominees and sponsors of the awards include Tech Mahindra, Huawei Technologies, PCCW, D-Link, IBM Daksh, SAS, GN Netcom, Toshiba, HP and Sonus Networks.

~ end ~

About the Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific ICT Awards

The Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific ICT Awards is held annually to recognize outstanding performance by companies and individuals in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry in Asia Pacific. The awards are presented to companies that demonstrate best practices in their industry, commending the diligence, commitment, and innovative business strategies required to advance in the global marketplace. It has, over the years, attracted some of the leading names in technology on a single platform to compete for the most coveted titles in ICT. Benchmarked against the highest standards of measurement criteria, the recipients of these awards indeed represent the best-in-class in Asia Pacific. For more information on the awards, research and judging process, and past recipients, please visit www.ict-awards.com

About Frost & Sullivan

Frost & Sullivan, a global growth consulting company, has been partnering with clients to support the development of innovative strategies for more than 40 years. The company's industry expertise integrates growth consulting, growth partnership services and corporate management training to identify and develop opportunities. Frost & Sullivan serves an extensive clientele that includes Global 1000 companies, emerging companies, and the investment community, by providing comprehensive industry coverage that reflects a unique global perspective and combines ongoing analysis of markets, technologies, econometrics, and demographics. For more information, visit www.frost.com

Media contact:

Sarah Lourdes
Corporate Communications
P: +603.6204.5878
E: sarah.lourdes@frost.com

Leticia Leopold
Corporate Communications
P: +603.6204.5816
E: leticia.leopold@frost.com