



ADDING MULTIMEDIA Metro Ethernet Forum Announces Winners of US Service Provider of the Year Awards 2006

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CHICAGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 6, 2006--The Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) is proud to announce the winners for their second "US Carrier Ethernet Service Provider of the Year" awards. Verizon received the "Service Provider of the Year - Best in Business" award and Optimum Lightpath received the "Service Provider of the Year - Outstanding Innovation" award at a champagne reception held at GlobalComm 2006, Chicago on June 6th.

Source: The Metro Ethernet Forum



· Winner of 'Best in Business' category - Verizonbusiness Left to right: Mike Tighe, MEF; Ron Kaplan, IDC; Tom Roach, VP Advanced Services, Verizonbusiness, Nan Chen, MEF; Stan Hubbard, Heavy Reading. (Photo: Business Wire). [View Multimedia Gallery](#)

"I would like to congratulate the winners for their well deserved awards" commented Nan Chen, President of the Metro Ethernet Forum, "and the runners up too for setting such a high standard in the second year of this competition. May I also take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to U.S. service providers in general for being the first to be certified for Carrier Ethernet services - so taking the lead in driving and developing the Carrier Ethernet market across the globe."

The judging panel -- which included analysts David Hold, Current Analysis; Michael Howard, Infonetics Research; Stan Hubbard, Heavy Reading; Ron Kaplan, IDC; Nick Maynard, Yankee Group plus Bob Mandeville from Iometrix and the MEF Board -- singled out Verizon for the Best in Business award.

Against strong competition, Verizon was chosen on the strength of its marketing excellence, major Ethernet infrastructure investment and consequent 77% growth from an already large Ethernet customer base. The Innovation Award was also a close race with Optimum Lightpath being chosen on the strength of its broad spectrum of innovation on all three counts -- technical, service and business.

Daniel Bar-lev, Co-chair of the MEF Marketing Committee adds "Carrier Ethernet, with its flexibility, simplicity and savings, opens up so many possibilities that we chose to award both for technological innovation and good business practice - encouraging service providers not just to adopt Carrier Ethernet but to use their innovative skills to find imaginative ways to exploit its power and flexibility to integrate new service offerings with world class business practice."

Finalists for the Service Provider of the Year Awards included: AT&T, Bell South, Masergy, Met-Net, MTS-Allstream, Optimum Lightpath, TWC, Verizon, XO, and Yipes

Further details on the US, European and Asian Awards and this year's winners are available on the MEF website at www.metroethernetforum.com.



Winner of 'Best in Business' category - Verizonbusiness Left to right: Mike Tighe, MEF; Ron Kaplan, IDC; Tom Roach, VP Advanced Services, Verizonbusiness, Nan Chen, MEF; Stan Hubbard, Heavy Reading. (Photo: Business Wire)



Winner for 'Outstanding Innovation' category - Optimum Lightpath Left to right: Ron Kaplan, IDC; Mike Tighe, MEF; Cablevision exec accepts award on behalf of Brian Fabiano, Senior Vice President of Architecture, Optimum Lightpath; Nan Chen, MEF; Stan Hubbard, Heavy Reading. (Photo: Business Wire)

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