



NEWS RELEASE

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Internet Telephony Services Providers' Association

The Voice of Advanced Communications

VoIP Award Finalists Unveiled

ITSPA, the industry body representing the VoIP sector, has unveiled the finalists for its 5th annual Awards, sponsored by Magrathea and which are taking place on the **6th March at the House of Commons Members' Dining Room**. The ITSPA Awards are designed to celebrate innovation and best practice in the VoIP industry. This year has seen the highest number of entries to date with over 60 entries received. A full list of the finalists is available below.

The event is kindly being hosted by **Dr Julian Huppert MP**, Vice Chair of the Parliamentary Internet Communications and Technology Forum.

The award categories for this year include, Best Consumer VoIP, Best Business ITSP (Small Enterprise, Medium Enterprise and Corporate), Best VoIP CPE, Best VoIP Infrastructure, Most Innovative VoIP Product and the ITSPA Members' Pick.

Malden Electronics conducted the technical testing for three award categories; Best Consumer VoIP; Best Business ITSP (Small Enterprise); and Best Business (Medium Enterprise). Entrants in these categories underwent two months of technical testing as well as submitting a written entry submission. Separately, entrants to all categories had to complete a written self-assessment, which were independently reviewed by the ITSPA Awards judges.

The ITSPA Members' Pick was a selected shortlist from the membership, outlining companies and services, who they believed had provided real value to the industry in recent years.

Eli Katz, Chair of ITSPA Council said, "Those shortlisted are an excellent line up to represent the significant growth of IP telephony and communications in both the consumer and business sectors. I look forward to meeting all the finalists as well as discussing the key regulatory issues facing our sector with our parliamentary hosts on the day."

Linus Surguy, Technical Director of Magrathea, the ITSPA Awards sponsor said, "Magrathea is proud to continue its support of this prestigious industry event and looks forward to returning to Parliament. Congratulations to all the finalists and best of luck for 6th March"

Tickets are available for the ITSPA Awards. Please contact the ITSPA Secretariat via admin@itspa.org.uk or 020 3397 3312. Further details about ITSPA and the awards can be found at the websites: <http://www.itspa.org.uk> and <http://www.itspaawards.org.uk/>

ITSPA Awards 2013 Finalists:

Best Consumer VoIP

BT
Localphone
Orbtalk
Voiptalk
VoiceHost

Best Business ITSP (Small Enterprise)

Gradwell
Hello Telecom
iNet Telecoms (Voipfone)
Soho66
SureVoIP
Telappliant
VoiceHost

Best Business ITSP (Medium Enterprise)

Coms.Com
Node4
Orbtalk
Telappliant
Voxhub

Best Business ITSP (Corporate)

Ciptex
Coms.Com
Node4
Timico

Best VoIP CPE

ipcortex - VoIPCortex IP PBX v4.1
Grandstream Networks - GXP2200 Enterprise Application Phone for Android™
Polycom - Polycom VVX600 and VVX Camera
Sangoma Technologies - NetBorder Lync Express
Yealink - VP-530N

Best VoIP Infrastructure

aql - aql Telecommunications Infrastructure
Genband - GENBAND Web Application Manager (WAM)
Metaswitch Networks - Perimeta 3.3

Most Innovative VoIP Product/Service

Alcatel-Lucent – OpenTouch Conversation
Babelisk - bdeye Velocity
Polycom - Polycom VVX600 and VVX Camera
SureVoIP - SureVoIP Core Products
Voxhub - Voxtop Apps Platform

ITSPA Members' Pick

Web RTC
The Broadband Stakeholders Group for their work on net neutrality
Mark Spencer for developing Asterisk
Microsoft Lync

-ends-

Note to editors:**About ITSPA (www.itspa.org.uk)**

ITSPA is the UK's industry body for Internet Telephony Service Providers. Founded in 2004, with over 60 members, ranging from the largest Tier one operators to the new entrants, providing services to millions of consumers and businesses.

About VoIP

Internet Telephony is the ability to make voice calls over any Internet Protocol (IP) connection, particularly broadband, using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). IP Communications also enable a rich multi-media set of advanced services, including Video, High Definition Sound, Instant Messaging and Presence. Internet Telephony Service Providers can provide regular and enhanced phone line services – often at substantial cost reductions.

The ITSPA Awards are sponsored by Magrathea:**About Magrathea: (<http://www.magrathea-telecom.co.uk/>)**

Magrathea is the UK's premier supplier of carrier services and managed solutions in all areas of computers and communications. First established in 1995 we have seen the industry grow and change. Our experience is a key part of the service that we deliver to you and your customers.

Our network spans both the PSTN and IP World, with multiple connections to multiple top tier TDM carriers, including a full BT & Eircom interconnect allowing us to fully integrate with the SS#7 network in both the UK and Ireland. Our IP network is diverse with multiple Tier-1 transit suppliers as well as peering at Linx supplemented by private peering with key IP providers. The network is fully NGN enabled allowing us to fully support Voice over IP interconnection and services.

Our technology is entirely developed in house but draws upon industry standards and utilises industrial strength components for ultimate carrier grade reliability.

Our switching facilities, based within Telehouse London, Bristol and Dublin give us access to virtually unlimited capacity and bandwidth and access to the best carrier networks in the world.

Magrathea are a leading wholesale VoIP provider in the UK, supporting both SIP and IAX. Our solutions include;

- Managed National and International Voice Connectivity, combining competitive rates with high call quality
- Providing UK and Ireland geographic and non-geographic numbering
- Hosted Billing Solutions
- Number Hosting
- Number Portability
- Providing 999 emergency service calling solutions

About Malden Electronics (www.malden.co.uk)

What do integrated circuit designers, network equipment developers, terminal makers, network operators and large enterprises have in common?

Many of these companies rely on speech quality test systems developed by Malden to evaluate and refine the performance of their products and services.

Malden's products make real telephone calls using real speech signals. They measure the performance of the network *from the perspective of the user*, taking into account the parameters which are important to *user satisfaction*. When did you last hear a telephone user complain that "jitter is bad today"?

Malden's approach to business is personal, too. The requirements of an operator are very different to those of an integrated circuit maker, even though "speech quality" features in both. We meet our future customers in person, taking time to understand their concerns. We encourage no-obligation evaluation loans, allowing the benefits of our test systems to speak for themselves. Best of all, we do not forget our customers after they buy a test system - we continue to welcome their questions, requests for assistance and ideas for new product features. Whilst we boast many years of engineering excellence in the speech performance field, we are also proud that some of the best features in our products were inspired by our customers.

Troubleshooting, checking out the competition, long-term monitoring of performance, network optimisation - these are some of the ways Malden's test systems bring real value. After all, what is the cost of inferior speech quality?