

Honouring excellence

The sixth edition of ET Telecom Awards 2017 was organised recently to acknowledge the excellence and innovation witnessed in the sector



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Technology is evolving at a rapid pace and one sector that has witnessed tremendous growth in the recent years is telecom. It has witnessed innovation, disruptions and unprecedented demand of users. In the last couple of years, a large number of telecom players have left no stone unturned to fulfill the rising demands of consumers. True, this sector has been a game changer in many ways.

ET Telecom Awards is one initiative that recognises the efforts of those telecom warriors, who are not only taking on these new-age challenges but also transcending them with aplomb. GTL Infrastructure presented the

sixth edition of ET Telecom Awards 2017 on March 21 at The Lalit, New Delhi. It was an evening that celebrated excellence and set the benchmarks for the highest standards of innovation.

AWARDS OBJECTIVE

To honour and felicitate the experts in the telecom sector who have created their own identity by moving towards a phase of evolution and development through their product and services setting the highest standards of innovation in the telecom sector. By instituting these awards, The Economic Times, India's leading business daily, has created a credible platform that truly honours the primary stakeholders in the telecom sector. In his welcome

address, Saurabh Mukherjee, Director, Response, said that it is a platform where innovators, thought leaders and disruptors of the telecom industry are recognised for their work. He further added that telecom sector is a driving force for the overall economy growth of a country and the government of India recognises this fact and has taken multiple steps to support this sector. "I thank The Economic Times for acknowledging our phone and our camera technology. We have been quietly working on our technology and we feel proud on being recognized," said Mohinder Singh Malik Director Oppo Mobiles India Pvt. Ltd.



"Telcom has become an integral part of our lives and it is a great feeling to see that so many people have been working on innovation and new-age technology products. They are not only simplifying consumers' life but also contributing to nation building."

MILIND NAIK

Whole Time Director & COO, GTL Infrastructure Ltd.

THE SELECTION

It takes a lot of time to recognise ingenuity in a world where so many players are there. The procedure of shortlisting of entries and separating the men from the boys took months. There were 25 categories. Earnest and Young was the knowledge partner of the event.

THE FUTURE

One of the most important technologies that will connect all sectors will be Internet of Things (IoT). In future, the machine-to-machine collaboration for the overall growth will grow. A panel discussion on IoT was also held where many relevant facts came to the fore.

EXPERT JURY



ANMOL TANEJA
Founder and CEO
Gadgets.in



NISHANT PADHIAR
Editor
Stuff & What Hi-Fi



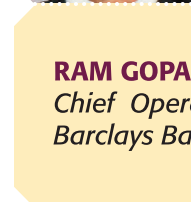
PRASANTO KUMAR ROY
Vice President & Head
NASSCOM Internet, Mobile & E-com. Council



SANJAY G UBALE
Managing Director & CEO
Tata Realty and Infrastructure Limited



V S PARTHASARATHY
Group Chief financial officer
& Group CIO, Mahindra & Mahindra



RAM GOPAL
Chief Operating Officer
Barclays Bank



NILESH MHATRE
CIO, HSBC bank



NANDINI DIAS
Chief Executive Officer
Lodestar UM



ANIL KHANNA
Managing Director Blue Dart Express Ltd



ANAND RATHI
Founder & Chairman
Anand Rathi



ADITYA GHOSH
President, Indigo

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

CATEGORY: Rural coverage
WINNER: Data Xgen Technologies Pvt Ltd
PROJECT NAME: Datamail



CATEGORY: Use of mobile applications
WINNER: eGovernments Foundation
PROJECT NAME: Puraseva apps



CATEGORY: Innovation in camera technology
WINNER: Apple iPhone 7 Plus



CATEGORY: Smart buy
WINNER: One Plus 3T



CATEGORY: Innovation in Smartwatch
WINNER: Apple Watch 2



CATEGORY: Excellence in technological advancement – Product development
WINNER: Samsung



CATEGORY: Excellence in technological advancement – Camera development
WINNER: Oppo



CATEGORY: Excellence in modular innovation
WINNER: Motorola



CATEGORY: Excellence in value delivery
WINNER: Micromax



CATEGORY: Excellence in product development
WINNER: Apple iPhone 7 Plus



CATEGORY: Excellence in technological advancement – Product development
WINNER: Samsung



CATEGORY: Social profit company
Winner: D-Vois Communications Private Limited
Project Name: Free Public WiFi in 18 KSRTC Bus stand



CATEGORY: Innovation in Developing OEM Product
WINNER: Kotkar Energy Dynamics Private Limited
PROJECT NAME: Skid Based Mast



CATEGORY: Marketing Campaign
WINNER: Bharti Airtel Limited
PROJECT NAME: Indias First Open Network



CATEGORY: Mobile Customer Service
WINNER: Vodafone India Limited
PROJECT NAME: First Time Fix



CATEGORY: Mobile device and equipment
WINNER: XOLO
PROJECT NAME: XOLO Era 1X



CATEGORY: Tower Development
WINNER: RAMBOLL INDIA
PROJECT NAME: Tubular profile tower



CATEGORY: Enterprise mobility
WINNER: Idea Cellular Ltd.
PROJECT NAME: Logistics Tracking Solution



CATEGORY: GTL for Make in India
WINNER: Coslight India Telecom Private Limited
PROJECT NAME: Customized R&D to suit Indian Environmental conditions



CATEGORY: Home and Personal IoT
WINNER: Tech Mahindra
PROJECT NAME: SAARTHI The AI Personal Healthcare Robot



CATEGORY: Industrial IOT
WINNER: Vodafone India Limited
PROJECT NAME: Identity Management Platform



CATEGORY: Not for profit company
WINNER: IAP HealthPhone
PROJECT NAME: Poshan



Saurav Mukherjee, Director, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. and Milind Naik, Whole Time Director & COO, GTL Infrastructure Ltd., gave away these awards.

IoT WILL BE THE FUTURE

The Economic Times Telecom Awards 2017 saw panelists from across the sector discussing the Internet of Things (IoT) that is being seen as the next big thing, albeit with a few shortcomings



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While the telecom sector has seen rapid growth in the last decade, the IoT is being seen as the next wave of the things to come. It is likely to unfurl a huge world of opportunities for telecom operators, service providers, and for us as a country as we embark on the digital platform. To talk about the past, present and future of IoT, a panel discussion was held at the ET Telecom Awards, wherein the experts from the field came together to discuss the potential that the Internet of Things has on us as a country, for us as a customer and for us as an enterprise. The discussion was moderated by Paromita Chatterjee from ET Now.

IoT as we understand it is taking the Internet away from the desktop and mobiles to smart devices. Talking about the definition of IoT in the current context, Aditya Chaudhary, MD & Lead, Accenture India, says, "IoT is something what the internet was 20 years ago. IoT therefore will be the future but in a very different

form that we have envisioned today. As one of the thought leaders, Accenture believes that the number of devices that will be in your houses or wherever you are will be far more than the population. And that is where IoT will play a major role."

While some call IoT hype, many consider it an industrial revolution. Giving insight on the same, Deven Buch, business head, OME, GTL Ltd, shares, "Things are always connected, either through wire lines or wireless. What makes IoT different and a promising case is that today there is computing power which is now available and that too on the cloud." Though disagreeing with IoT being a revolution, Dr. Kaushik Saha, CTO, Samsung R&D Institute India, says IoT needs more time to prove itself. "I do not consider IoT to be the industrial revolution it is projected to be. The basic problem of quality of service exists. There is power consumption constraint as nobody can ensure a battery life of five years for a small sensor. Lastly, data security is a big

problem as 75 per cent of data is encrypted." Akhil Minocha, Vice President of Sales- Asia Pacific and Japan, Accelerate, agrees that there are barriers but feels that IoT is here to stay. "Intra-operability is surely an issue. There are other barriers to IoT; but more

than barriers, there is a definite spurt in terms of adoption of IoT. And very clearly this is an industrial revolution. And this is a natural and gradual progression of technology," he says.

IoT is all about adding values, avers Kavitha Mohammad, Director, Industrial Solutions Group, Public Sector, Intel Corporation - Asia Pacific Japan, said "IoT is a globalisation of

sorts which is helping devices talk in their own language. Also they can now understand many languages and collaborate better. In IoT, we are talking about intra-operability which is nothing but understanding each other's world better," she points out.

Giving a telecom perspective, Uttam Kumar, Head, IT Innovation and New Technology, Aircel, adds, "IoT is the intelligent connectivity of physical devices, driving massive gains in efficiency, business growth and quality of life. The pace of change is accelerating. But everything that we are talking about here has to be India specific. It should also be a strong business case; either a revenue generation or cost saving." Talking

about how IoT will affect productivity and efficiency, Randeep Raina, CTO, Nokia India, says "With digitisation that is happening globally and in India, we are already in a stage where productivity out of the technology has not completely yielded its potential. IoT gives us an opportunity where you can enhance productivity and efficiency across the verticals. I don't see any challenge vis-à-vis IoT cutting on jobs but contrary to this, it is sure to improve efficiency and make better use of human resource." IoT in India doesn't come in standardised packages. It is all about adopting a consultative approach to address specific needs and working out a solution with the available eco system. Concluding the discussion, the panel agreed on identifying what is the market case as far as India is concerned and to give IoT some time to make a mark. There is an opportunity to be an evolution which will come to forefront with time. It's not a perfect world and with time IoT too will come out negating all its shortcomings.

QUOTE UNQUOTE



Everyone is asking if IoT will affect me and if it is relevant in India. Yes, it will affect us and it is very relevant in the Indian market. There might be an explosion, just like 4G. In IoT, people will come together where they will find relevant business cases.

ADITYA CHAUDHURI
Managing Director,
Accenture



Things are always connected, either through wire lines or wireless. What makes IoT different and a promising case is that today there is computing power which is now available and that too on the cloud.

DEVEN BUCH
Business Head OME,
GTL Limited



We are just expecting to give us a solution. Consorted efforts can help in minimising the vulnerability of users' privacy.

KAVITHA MOHAMMED
Director, Industrial Solutions
Group, Public Sector, Intel
Corporation - Asia Pacific
Japan



IoT is the intelligent connectivity of physical devices, driving massive gains in efficiency, business growth and quality of life. The pace of change is accelerating. But everything that we are talking about here has to be India specific