

AfricaCom Awards 2012 winners

Winners of the AfricaCom Awards 2012, which acknowledges the growth and importance of the telecoms and digital sectors across the African continent, were announced on Wednesday 14 November 2012 at an awards ceremony which took place in Cape Town, South Africa.



This year's awards reportedly received more entries than ever before, all of which are of an extremely high calibre. This is an indication of the innovative work that has taken place in Africa over the past 12 months.

And the winners are...

Best Network Improvement

Helios Towers Africa - Shared Telecoms Infrastructure

Most Innovative Service

Orange Group - Deezer

Best Quality User Experience

Sicap - Mobile Money ATM

Best Cost Efficiency Initiative

ZTE - Solution for Airtel

Rural Telecoms Award

Viettel - Movitel Rural Network

Best Backhaul Solution for Africa

Comtech EF Data - Mobile Backhaul Solution

Best Marketing Campaign

Prezence Digital - #Mandelastory

Best Smart-Device for Africa

Best Pan African Initiative

WIOCC - Seamless, High-Capacity International Connectivity Ring around Africa

The 2012 Mobile Data and Social Media Award

Bozza Mobile - The Bozza.mobi App

Industry Personality of the Year

Alan Knott-Craig - Cell C

Changing Lives Award

Safaricom - DAKTARI-1525

To celebrate the launch of AfricApps at AfricaCom 2012, the winning entrants of the App-focused awards were:

Best Smart Phone App

Prezence Digital - Ster-Kinekor mobile app

Best Feature Phone App

biNu

Orange African Social Venture Prize

Following the first edition in 2011, the Orange African Social Venture Prize has been awarded to three entrepreneurs or start-ups offering solutions that use ICT in innovative ways to meet the needs of people living in Africa.

The panel of judges, consisting of Orange specialists, the media and institutions that promote development, chose the three prize-winners from among almost 450 candidate projects covering a variety of fields such as healthcare, agriculture, education, energy, industry and commerce illustrating the high potential of telecommunications for development in Africa.

The winning projects are:

- Vivus Limited, a start-up from Côte d'Ivoire that allows agricultural or farm produce traders to optimize their stocks, and thereby avoid waste, by using a SMS-based system providing information on ongoing deals.
- Takachar provides a system that has already been launched in Kenya to improve waste management by using telecoms technologies to track waste collection in real time.
- The e-commerce business Niokobok enables Senegalese people living abroad to send basic necessities to their families back home avoiding the extra cost of transferring money.

Etisalat Prize for Innovation

The 'Etisalat Nigeria Prize for Innovation' seeks to promote the utilisation of mobile broadband in Africa. The inaugural 'Etisalat Prize for Innovation' is aimed at encouraging and celebrating valuable innovation in the African market and will be awarded in two categories. The first prize of \$25 000 for the most innovative product or service launched in the last 12 months and a second prize of \$10 000 for the most innovative idea.

Etisalat believes innovation should go beyond improvements in existing products and services and instead have real value, social or economic impact to customers.

The winner of first prize was Mobile Maths Practice, a mobile application to help students around the globe prepare for maths exams. The invention relates to wireless communications and methods and systems in which a wireless service provider may offer wireless data messages to mobile subscribers.

Second place went to iConnect Project, which supplies mobile broadband internet connection vehicles to schools in a variety of geo-locations. The vehicles are refurbished shipping containers connected to a truck head and are fully mobile and are therefore scheduled into a school's timetable which enables sharing and full connectivity.

Speaking on the success of the competition which witnessed an impressive array of entries for the two award categories, chief executive officer of Etisalat Nigeria, Steven Evans, explained that the competition was instituted to provide the opportunity for innovative and relevant mobile broadband products/services and ideas.

"We are delighted at the creativity shown by all the entries and this is a clear indication of the importance of broadband in Africa. Innovative broadband projects, products and services have improved the way we live and work and so we launched this award because we realise the importance of broadband in the industry. Innovation is core to our business strategy at Etisalat Nigeria and we see ourselves as a young and innovative business setting the pace for others in the Nigerian telecommunications industry" said Evans.

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