

The 2014 COMET Innovation Awards

By Becky Bracken, Scott St. John

Innovation is the watchword of our industry. Whether dazzling consumers with another game-changing technological development or driving down the cost to transport a gig of data, communications and entertainment (COMET) technologies have two simple choices: evolve or evaporate. That pressure to always move forward beyond what is possible today, to evolve, is the precise spirit *Pipeline* wants to recognize, appreciate and celebrate.

Pipeline's 2014 COMET Innovation Awards program was intentionally designed to provide objective, target-market validation of technological advancements by those that use them to deliver the world's most advanced COMET services. Specifically, technology provider submissions are reviewed by an external judging panel comprised of executive-level service providers and key industry analysts. At their request, the program was expanded over the last two years so that service providers could also compete. This year, communications service providers (CSPs) are competing in the Most Innovative Service Provider category and competition is fierce across all categories.



This year *Pipeline* also added a prize worth nearly \$50,000 which includes one full year of advertising services for the company that wins the "Technology Provider of the Year" category. This category recognizes the most innovative provider of technology solutions that are enabling the next generation of communications products and services.

"Each of the companies that compete in COMET Awards shape the way we communicate as a society," said Scott St. John *Pipeline's* Executive Editor. "It's important to underscore these technical advancements so we don't lose sight of how they are being used to break down global barriers and connect us at a human level."

This year's COMET Awards encompass all of the most innovative technology and service provider companies, from the very largest to the most nimble new market entrants. Companies were encouraged to nominate themselves, their partners, their suppliers, and their customers. To date, over 200 nominations have been received for over 100 companies in 10 areas of innovation, including the following categories:

- Innovations in Support Systems
- Innovations in Networking Technology
- Innovations in Customer Experience Management
- Innovations in Big Data & Analytics
- Innovations in Cloud & Virtualization
- Innovations in Security and Assurance
- Technical Developments
- Most Innovative Service Provider
- Most Innovative Technology Provider
- Editor's Choice

Technology Provider Nominees

The 2014 nominees are separated into two groups: one for technology providers and one for service providers. The Technology Provider group consists of those that develop technology used by service providers. The 2014 technology provider nominees include the following industry innovators who are providing the enabling technology that transforms the way we communicate as a global community:

Accanto Systems

Devicescape

Nextivity

Acision

DigitalRoute

NICE Systems

Active Video Networks

Ericsson

Nominium

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Aepona	Essence	NSN
Airbiquity	EXFO	OpenCloud
Alcatel Lucent	Flash Networks	Openet
Altobridge	GENBAND	Oracle
Amartus	Gigamon	Orga Systems
Amdocs	Hitachi Data Systems	Pie Digital
Anritsu	Huawei	Polystar OSIX
Apigee	IBM Services Innovation Lab	Qwilt
Aptilo Networks	IMImobile	RacoWireless
AsiaInfo Linkage	Infinera	Razorsight
Astellia	Infobip	Sigma Systems
Broadsoft	InfoVista	Starhome Mach
Brocade	Intercede	Subex Limited
Cerillion	JDSU	SundaySky
Cisco	Juniper Networks	Tail-f Systems
Clarity	Kyocera	Tech Mahindra
Comptel	Microsoft	The Video Point
comScore	Monolith Software	TIERONE
Comverse	MYCOM	Tom Sawyer Software
Connectem	Nakina Systems	Validian
CSG International	NetAdmin Systems	Viaccess-Orca
Cycle30	NetCracker	WeDo Technologies
Device Cloud Networks		

Service Provider Nominees

The Service Provider group includes those that market innovative COMET services to consumers, organizations and enterprises. This year's service provider nominees include a wide range of traditional telcos and new market entrants from around the globe. The 2014 service provider nominees include the following industry innovators who are offering some of the most advanced COMET services:

- AT&T
- British Telecom
- C-Spire
- Deutsche Telecom
- EarthLink
- Global Capacity
- Google
- Iridium Communications
- NTT DOCOMO
- Orange
- Portugal Telecom
- SK Telecom
- Sprint
- Telefonica
- Verizon

The 2014 COMET program has been promoted extensively in over 100 countries, translated into dozen of languages, and has been covered by both the mainstream and trade media. As the competition continues to heat up, Semi-finalists and Finalists will be selected and announced on the [2014 COMET Awards homepage](#). There have been nearly 30 Semi-finalists selected to date which will be whittled down to just two Finalists per category. From the two Finalist companies, one Winner and one Runner-up will be selected by the external judging panel.

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The 2014 COMET Innovation Awards culminate at a red-carpet awards presentation in Nice, France on June 2nd. The COMET Awards will be hosted by [Le Negresco](#) ultra-luxury hotel. The event is intended to bring together the industry's leading innovators in an intimate and unique environment where they can meet and forge relationships that will last beyond the event itself. Attendees of the awards reception will enjoy cocktails overlooking the Mediterranean and delicacies prepared by the hotel's two-Michelin-star-rated chefs. The judges' identities are held in confidence and are revealed at the reception, as are the COMET Award Winners and Runner-ups.

Each year Pipeline hand selects custom art-glass sculptures to be transformed into the trophies for the program which are presented at the reception, as attendees enjoy the best of French cuisine and views of the Mediterranean at one of the most exclusive venues in Europe. There's no need to feel left out either. This year, Pipeline has opened the attendance to all professionals in the industry. Tickets are available online, [here](#).

For those who are or planning to be in Nice for the TM Forum event, there may be no better way to kick off the week than attending the COMET Awards reception and seeing who is shaping the industry while networking with Pipeline editors, executive service providers, key analyst judges, and other industry innovators. We'd love to see you there!

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