2012 AfricaCom Awards shortlist announced

The AfricaCom Awards, which acknowledges the growth and importance of the telecoms and digital sectors across the African continent, is set to take place during the 2012 AfricaCom conference taking place from 13-15 November at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), South Africa, under the theme 'Reaching the Next Frontier for Growth'. The shortlist of contenders for the 2012 AfricaCom Awards have been released.

Conference manager and head of product innovation at Informa Telecoms & Media, Emily Martyr commented that competition was fierce this year with a record number of entries, up 60% on last year, which itself was a bumper year.

"The quality and number of entries into these awards is testament to the importance of this sector across Africa" she says.

South African judge, Bradley Shaw, editor of *Africa Telecoms* magazine, added that "the tech economy and digi-sphere on the African continent is an exciting space to play in. All of this year's entries were outstanding and it has been a difficult task to select only a few per category."

The shortlists are:

Best Network Improvement

Airtel Nigeria - Airtel Nigeria
Helios Towers Africa - Shared Telecoms Infrastructure
Liquid Telecom - FTTH in Zimbabwe
Orange Group - Orange Cote d'Ivoire
Orange Group - Internet for All
ZTE - Network & Services

Most Innovative Service

Afrique Telecom - VSAT Services
BWired - Open Access Fibre Based ICT Network
Comviva - Airtel MVAS
Econet Wireless - EcoCash
Emerging Market Communications (EMC)
Intersec - Loyalty Management Suite
Orange Group - Deezer
Orange Group - Internet for All
Safaricom - M-PESA Retail Distribution Service
Spice VAS Africa - Music Scorer

Best Quality User Experience - sponsored by MTN

Airtel - Airtel MVAS

Orange Group - Enhanced Mobile Browser

Orange Group - Orange Voices

Prezence Digital - Ster Kinekor Smart-Phone App

Sicap - Mobile Money ATM

Safaricom - USSD Self Service Internet Kiosk

Best Cost Efficiency Initiative

ACME / Reime - Energy Management Unit

AfriGIS - Census Progress Watch

Airtel Nigeria - Airtel Nigeria

Conduct Telecom - Last Mile Open Access Fibre Optic Infrastructure

IHS - Cost Efficiency Technology

Orange Group - Low Cost WiFi Hotspots

Safaricom Business - Safaricom Business

ZTE - ZTE Solution

Rural Telecoms Award

Gateway Communication - Mauritius Island Connectivity through CellDirect

Orange Group - Internet for All

Rorotika - SIM Swap

Safaricom - Webbox & USSD Internet Self-Service

Orange Group - Birth Registration

Viettel - Movitel Rural Network

Best Backhaul Solution for Africa

BWired - High Speed Fibre Based Network

Comtech EF Data - Mobile Mackhaul Solution

Dark Fibre Africa - Open Access Infrastructure Provider

Isotel Telecom - Benin Backhaul Network

Best Marketing Campaign

Etisalat Misr - Etisalat Misr Marketing

Mobitainment - Monsta Pops Mega Music Giveaway

MTC - NetMan 4G

Orange Group - Deezer

Prezence Digital - #Mandelastory

Warid Telecom - Kiyitridde

Best Smart-Device for Africa - sponsored by Gateway

Etisalat Misr - Smart Device

Orange Group - Internet on TV

Best Pan African Initiative

AFRINIC - AFRINIC

Gateway Communications - SADC Terrestrial Rollout

Helios Towers Africa - Infrastructure Sharing Energy Storage System
Sky Vision - Skyvision
Orange Group - West African Cluster Architecture
WIOCC - Seamless, High-Capacity International Connectivity Ring around Africa

The 2012 Mobile Data and Social Media Award

biNu - biNu Social Content Platform
Bozza Mobile - The Bozza.mobi App
Eskimi - Eskimi Mobile Social Network
Motribe - Motribe Mobile Social Networks
Mxit - Mxit
Prezence Digital - #Mandelastory

Industry Personality of the Year

Adiel Akplogan, AFRINIC
Alan Knott-Craig, Cell C
Andile Ngcaba, Convergence Partners
Karel Pienaar, MTN
Ben Sira, Sky Vision
Cheikh Tidiane Mbaye, Orange Group

Changing Lives Award - sponsored by Comviva

Etisalat Misr - CSR Initiative 'Origin'
Orange Group - Mobile Birth Declaration
Orange Group - Tele Diagnostics
Praekelt Foundation - YoungAfricaLive
Safaricom - DAKTARI-1525
Safaricom - Safaricom Business KimMNCHip Project

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on 14 November 2012.

For more, go to www.africacomawards.com