

FINALISTS FOR THE GERALD DAVID OBE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS RADIO, 2016

Winning Entry - Panorama Antennas Ltd. – The Sharkee Antenna (GPSD-7-27-24-58)

Panorama won the 2016 Gerald David Award with their MiMo antenna that incorporates all the functionality for ESN, enhanced to include a VHF / UHF communications bearer.

The GPSD has a very small, shark fin style housing. The key challenge was to design and position the antenna elements to obtain enough gain for the 4G function whilst retaining adequate isolation and low correlation. Panorama made a significant investment in development time and cost in the lab to achieve a design that meets all the requirements with effective MiMo function.

The 4G MiMo elements cover the frequency range 698-3800MHz, making the antenna compatible with the next release of frequencies for mobile broadband application (700MHz & 3400MHz) In addition, it incorporates 2xMiMo for support of dual band WiFi, again meeting the gain, isolation and correlation requirements. To achieve this, a new design for the WiFi elements, mounted on printed circuit sub boards was required. This resulted in an improvement in the gain in both the WiFi bands.

The unit also incorporates the latest Panorama GPS/GLONASS antenna module, which has a full suite of CE approvals and high specification filtering, to enable reliable GNSS function whilst operating in a multi-band LTE wireless environment.

This unit has already received very positive reviews from the customer.

The Judging panel was particularly attracted to this solution because of the extent of the development necessary to bring these innovative developments to market. The judges believed this to be a very forward-looking product. Furthermore, antenna in radio communications is often overlooked even though it is (of course) a vital part of any successful solution.

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Other shortlisted entrants:

Tait UnifyVehicle with a SMC Application – A Tait Radio / SMC Collaborative Project

UnifyVehicle Turbo-charges the performance of your existing, or new Tait Mobile radio (Analogue or Digital). It Increases connectivity and enables powerful new applications by utilising complementary technologies including, Wifi, Bluetooth v4, NFC, Mobile Broadband connections with comprehensive APIs, and more. UnifyVehicle re-imagines the mobile radio into a Mission Critical Vehicle Area Network Hub. SMC has worked in close collaboration with the Tait R&D team to deliver a customised dialler application for Android capable of seamlessly dialling radio or telephone numbers, as well as switching between technologies when one service is unavailable - as well as switching between DMR and cellular data bearers.

The judges were very impressed by the extent of the extension to communications capability offered by this important innovation.

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PMR Products Ltd. SafetyNet Digital.

SafetyNet Digital is a software management scheme that expands the capabilities of Business Radio by extending the reach of mobile radio into specific applications, providing significantly more solutions for customers. It achieves this by leveraging all the capabilities of Business Radio products by using the flexibility of digital radio under the control of the software management scheme.

In addition, the SafetyNet portfolio allows the integration of external systems with location information to be combined in many ways into a single portable device.

The judges were enthusiastic about this product because having such significantly enhanced capability resident within the hand portable is clearly an important development for the marketplace.

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FaceWatch

Facewatch is a secure, user-friendly portfolio of applications products that aim to increase customer value, improve safety and reduce crime through worldwide communication and the instant sharing of intelligence. This is achieved through the combination of applications installed on the mobile product that effectively harness the power of crowd sourcing for the prevention of crime:

The “Watch List” takes the recording of threats and SOIs from the static staff rooms of individual businesses to an updatable, instantly accessible and collaborative, online directory that multiple sources can contribute to.

The judging panel admired the level of services provided within the FaceWatch portfolio and particularly noted the importance of this type of product for the future.

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Notes to editors:

The Gerald David OBE Award for Innovation in Business Radio spotlights the company with the most innovative product or service related to the sector. It is the only award of its kind in the country and confers the highest prestige to the winner. Even participating marks the entrant as a serious player in the high technically specialised and professional radiocommunications field.

The judges – an expert panel drawn from across the Business Radio industry – are looking for clever ideas which have advanced the use of technology and delivered real benefits to the market.

Gerald David OBE

Gerald David OBE had a long and very successful career in the Business Radio Industry as an entrepreneur in the arena of the supply of aerials and site services through his company Aerial Facilities Ltd.

For many years, Gerald David played a vital role as a key influencer of UK policy and was instrumental in ensuring that UK would be able to take full benefit from the wide range of important services that Business Radio provides us, even today.

Gerald was a very keen driver of new thinking and innovation and it was inevitable he would sponsor the business radio award for innovation, the most prestigious award for the industry there is today. The award – which is now named in his honour -- has been presented every year since its inception in 2004.