



For Immediate Release
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Global High Tech Industry Alliance Awards Exceptional Users of IT

Adelaide, Australia – The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) today announced seven winners of its *Information Technology Excellence Awards 2002* at the World Congress on Information Technology 2002 in Adelaide, Australia. The awards honor exceptional achievements in the application of information technology around the globe and were presented to winners in three broad categories: Public Sector Excellence, Private Sector Excellence, and Digital Opportunity. A special Chairman's Award was also presented.

"Candidates for the IT Excellence awards were hand-picked by IT experts from around the world who are part of our 41-country WITSA industry network," said Harris N. Miller, President of WITSA and the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA). "Each of the winners has demonstrated world-class achievements in their use of the latest IT products and services, and it was a natural choice to honor the winners here in Adelaide at the World Congress on Information Technology - the preeminent global IT executive conference."

"WITSA was able to select some of the very best applications of IT from around the globe, based on a large pool of highly qualified candidates," said WITSA Chairman George Newstrom. "It was a particular honor for me to select New York City as the winner of our special Chairman's Award. The NYC.gov portal is a model of public service, meeting New Yorkers' needs for government services, even in the face of ever changing challenges," Newstrom added.

Candidates for *Information Technology Excellence Awards 2002* were nominated by IT experts from WITSA's network of 41 global IT associations, then voted on by the executives of WITSA member associations.

About the Winners

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

City of New York for their new portal - NYC.gov.

Citizens of one of the biggest cities on earth can conduct more than 100 service transactions and access 50,000 pages of content on this intuitive, user-friendly portal. An intention-based design allows citizens who know what they want to do, but don't know where to go within the government, to easily perform their municipal transactions. From viewing live traffic cameras to ordering birth certificates to paying parking tickets, NYC.gov is truly a one-stop government portal for all New Yorkers. NYC.gov embodies bold and innovative ways for government to effectively meet citizen needs and improve access to vital City services.

PUBLIC SECTOR EXCELLENCE

Taipei City Government: Taipei CyberCity Initiative.

Under its current administration, Taipei has become a true CyberCity. Leveraging its three cornerstones of e-Government, e-Schools and e-Community, Taipei's initiative has developed an environment where all personal computers, servers and websites are connected to a backbone communications infrastructure. Behind the vast technological infrastructure laid down in Taipei, there is the critical leadership and support from Mayor Ying-jeou Ma for the Taipei CyberCity Initiative.

ONCE – Blind and Disabled Spanish National Organization.

ONCE has created a program to offer Microsoft technologies to disabled and blind citizens of Spain, with assistance from Microsoft Corporation. This program was started after an agreement was signed between Bill Gates and ONCE General Management in 1997 in Madrid (Spain). Using accessible information and user interface technologies, ONCE has been able to develop products such as ONCE-Reader (Screen Reader) and ONCE-Mega (Screen Magnifying Module) to allow blind employees to work on equal terms as sighted employees in Spain.

PRIVATE SECTOR EXCELLENCE

Bank of Singapore Ltd. ([BOS](#)).

Bank of Singapore (BOS) last year transformed itself into Singapore's first pure Internet Bank. At its launch, BOS was the first in market to launch on-line loan and account opening applications; and first in market to put together a comprehensive suite of ASP services through alliance partnerships.

FINNAIR.

Finnair offers to its frequent flyer passengers the eGate boarding solution, allowing them to pass through a crowded airport and board an airplane without any waiting in line while maintaining the confidence that unauthorized persons cannot board that plane. Once at the airport, a FINNAIR passenger can check in and board the airplane by walking through a special gate that will remotely read his or her frequent flyer card and verify his or her identity, allowing immediate boarding with no hassles.

DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

Connectivity Agenda: The leap to Internet in Colombia.

The Connectivity Agenda is the set of strategies developed through specific programs and projects to allow Colombia to profit from the use of information technologies for its economic, social and political development. The development of the Connectivity Agenda was led by the President of the Republic, with active participation from the remaining governmental agencies and the private sector.

HP Digital Village Program Communities.

The HP Digital Village Program combines technology, brainpower and collaborative energy to help underserved communities invent and realize their own visions for the future. Each of three Digital Villages is a vision of what technology can achieve with imagination and optimism. Each Digital Village receives approximately \$5 million worth of HP products, services, consulting and social venture capital over three years to implement their technology partnerships with community partners, such as schools and universities, local government, community services, churches, nonprofits and small businesses.

About WITSA

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance is a consortium of 41 information technology (IT) industry associations from economies around the world. As the global voice of the IT industry, WITSA is dedicated to advocating policies that advance the industry's growth and development; facilitating international trade and investment in IT products and services; strengthening WITSA's national industry associations through the sharing of knowledge, experience, and critical information; providing members with a vast network of contacts in nearly every geographic region of the world; and hosting the World Congress on IT, the only industry sponsored global IT event. Founded in 1978 and originally known as the World Computing Services Industry Association, WITSA has increasingly assumed an active advocacy role in international public policy issues affecting the creation of a robust global information infrastructure. For additional information about WITSA and its activities, go to www.witsa.org.

The WITSA Secretariat is currently hosted by the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA). For more information about ITAA, please visit its web site at www.ITAA.org.

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