



## **Winners of Service Provider of the Year Awards Announced by Metro Ethernet Forum**

**Supercomm** Chicago, June 8th, 2005: The Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) is proud to announce the winners for their inaugural "US Carrier Service Provider of the Year" awards. AT&T received the "Service Provider of the Year - Best in Business" award and Yipes received the "Service Provider of the Year - Outstanding Innovation" award at a champagne reception held at Supercomm 2005, Chicago on Wednesday 8th June.

"This is the first time we have offered this award in the United States," comments Mark Fishburn, President of the Metro Ethernet Forum. "Our European and Asian Service Provider awards carry a lot of weight, but until now the United States have been lagging in the race to provide Carrier Ethernet Services - largely because of the more dispersed urban environment. But uptake is accelerating worldwide - with Infonetics predicting a doubling of revenue between 2004 and 2008 - and we now see a strong enough US base to justify extending this award and further accelerating competition across North America.

The judging panel, which included MEF Chairman, Mark Fishburn plus industry analysts Ron Kaplan, IDC; Michael Howard, Infonetics Research; Brian Van Steen, RHK; Jeff Ogle, Current Analysis and Stan Hubbard, Heavy Reading singled out AT&T for the Best in Business award on the strength of its portfolio of Carrier Ethernet services, broad geographic coverage, strong value proposition for the Enterprise, and Ethernet business growth. Yipes, a pioneer in Metro Ethernet, was chosen for the "Innovation Award" with particular reference to its innovative service offerings."

Mark Fishburn adds, "By awarding both for technological innovation and business practice we are encouraging service providers not just to adopt Carrier Ethernet but to use their innovative skills as Yipes are doing to find imaginative ways to exploit its power and flexibility to integrate new service offerings with world-class business practice."

Further details on the US, European and Asian Awards and this year's winners are available on the MEF website at [www.metroethernetforum.com](http://www.metroethernetforum.com).

### **About The Metro Ethernet Forum**

The Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) is a global industry alliance comprising of more than 70 organizations including telecommunications service providers, network equipment/software manufacturers, semiconductor vendors and testing organizations. The MEF's mission is to accelerate the worldwide adoption of Carrier-class Ethernet networks and services. The MEF develops Carrier Ethernet technical specifications and implementation agreements to promote interoperability and deployment of Carrier Ethernet worldwide.

For more information about the Forum, including a complete listing of all current MEF members, please visit the MEF web site at [www.MetroEthernetForum.org](http://www.MetroEthernetForum.org).

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