



New Zealand projects win three awards in regional Smart City Awards

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New Zealand Smart City Initiatives at the Forefront in Asia Pacific Awards

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IDC Asia/Pacific has announced the winners for the IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards (SCAPA) 2019. Out of 14 categories, New Zealand projects won awards in three categories: Civic Engagement, Education, and Sustainable Infrastructure.

Market Analyst Jefferson King said: "New Zealand has been a front runner of Smart City projects in all five years of these awards. Despite its size, New Zealand is punching well above its weight by delivering high quality, innovative Smart Cities projects." King continued to say "Being recognised regionally shows that organisations in New Zealand are successfully leveraging New Zealand's world class IT infrastructure to enable innovation."

In summary, the New Zealand winners and categories are as follows:

- **Virtual Wellington** in the Civic Engagement category. Virtual Wellington is a Virtual Reality version of Wellington., It immerses people in a 3D city experience and allows them to interact with city data to understand urban issues and futures. The model covers all of Wellington City, and the surrounding metropolitan council's and contains the buildings, trees, roads and other physical features which make up Wellington's environment. This environment then provides the base to project data, proposals and alternative futures in an engaging, informative and intuitive way.
- **Will Digital Teacher** in the Education category. Will is a digital teacher operating initially in the Auckland region for schools connected to Vector Ltd© electrical network. The aim of the project is to educate children about energy and its role in New Zealand society. The project utilizes AI combined with digital human face to humanize Will, as well as to provide an interactive interface. While the knowledge base of the AI is currently limited to Vector's energy education program, the aim

is to eventually utilize this AI across many different subjects. In the long term the project seeks to solve issues stemming from an international teacher shortage, as well as democratize education. Vector highlights that from a business standpoint, it is essential to follow new technology trends and practices.

- **Madden Street** in the Sustainable Infrastructure category. Spark New Zealand's 5G team has joined with Auckland Transport, NB Smart Cities, Cisco and Auckland Council's Panuku Development to create Madden Street. Madden Street utilizes IoT technology to display how 5G will impact the way citizens interact with technology on a daily basis through the installation of sensors in rubbish bins, car park spaces, street lights, pavements, and air monitors. The combination of sensors allows various street factors to change, such as a full rubbish bin being emptied or dimming light triggering street lights. The street lamps house the smart hubs which make all this possible. Through this project, Auckland can remove the ugliness typically associated with smart hubs at street level, while also providing free public Wi-Fi and smart CCTV.

King continued to say, "For New Zealand projects to win across three different categories is an extraordinary achievement."

Now in its fifth year, SCAPA recognises the most outstanding smart city projects in Asia/Pacific excluding Japan (APeJ) across a total of 14 functional smart city award categories. This year 17 projects were named as the best in Asia/Pacific excluding Japan (APeJ) chosen from a total of 58 finalists across APeJ.

IDC Government Insights' team went through a rigorous six-phased benchmarking exercise to determine the Top Smart City projects for 2018-19. These included identifying and cataloging the key Smart City projects in Asia/Pacific by IDC Analysts across APeJ (25%), online voting to determine public opinion (50%), and assessment by an International Advisory Council (25%).

For more information and a full list of winners visit the Smart Cities microsite <https://www.idc.com/ap/smartcities/2019-winners/> or contact Rebecca Baily at rbaily@idc.com.

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Figure 1



IDC Smart City 2019

SMART CITY ASIA PACIFIC AWARDS 2019

**ANNOUNCEMENT
OF WINNERS**



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