Four New Zealand projects shortlisted in IDC Asia Pacific Smart Cities Awards

IDC PRESS RELEASE

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Auckland, New Zealand, 23 March 2020 – IDC Asia Pacific today announced that four New Zealand projects have been shortlisted as finalists in the 2020 IDC Asia Pacific Smart Cities Awards. The annual awards highlight and acknowledge outstanding smart city initiatives in the Asia Pacific region and this year reached new heights receiving over 215 smart city initiative entries from the public sector and technology suppliers from across the region. The Awards are now in the public voting phase, the public can vote for the deserving finalists at www.idc.com/ap/smartcities and go in the draw to win the latest Samsung Galaxy S20+ after the announcement of the Asia/Pacific winners in May 2020.

For 2020, one project from Rural Connectivity Group, one from Frenzy Application, and two projects from Christchurch City Council have been shortlisted as finalists in four of the 14 award categories. The Rural Connectivity Group has rolled out their second phase of the Rural Broadband Connectivity Initiative, in the Digital Equity and Accessibility category, Frenzy are a finalist in the Transportation - Connected & Autonomous Vehicles, Public Transit, Ride-Hailing/Ride-Sharing category for the Frenzy App, Christchurch City Council's Smart Water Sensors under Smart Water, and their EQRNet- Earthquake Response Management under the Public Safety - Disaster Response / Emergency Management category are both finalists.

Louise Francis, IDC New Zealand Country Manager and ANZ Research Director, says given the nature of the competition

that New Zealand projects are up against across the Asia Pacific region, the results are especially impressive.

"For New Zealand to have four projects that stand out on the regional stage is a noteworthy achievement. New Zealand has consistently excelled in the six years that these awards have been running."

The Rural Broadband Connectivity Initiative aims to improve and provide high speed broadband and connectivity for rural New Zealanders. The deployment will occur throughout the whole country providing coverage for 84,000 rural homes. It will also enable mobile coverage along an additional 1400kms of State Highway and provide connectivity to a minimum of 168 tourist attractions. The Rural Connectivity Group will do the majority of the deployment creating a rural broadband network that can deliver better health and education services, safer state highways and tourism locations.

'Frenzy', a free NZ-made app, gives commuters the option of earning some money while taking public transport. With its recent launch in Auckland, it is targeting the other main centres by the end of February 2020. The app pays people who use it to plan their bus, train or ferry trips and view

marketing content during the ride. With a sustainable outlook, the company offsets carbon emissions of users' journeys by buying carbon credits from approved schemes. For each video, game or quiz a user watches or does, they receive 'Frenzy dollars'. These are similar to airpoints and can be deposited into a user's bank account, spent at partners retailers e.g Spark or donated to charity.

In July 2018, the Smart Christchurch programme at Christchurch City Council (CCC) initiated a three year trial of the earthquake response network, EQRNet, with local company Canterbury Seismic Instruments (CSI). EQRNet is a dense network of more than 150 ground-based accelerometers which allows Council to manage its earthquake response in real-time; safeguarding communities, staff, and assets above and below ground. This trial was initiated on the back of a 10-sensor pilot in the Christchurch CBD which demonstrated significant variations in ground-shaking over distances as small as 100m. This proved that a much greater level of monitoring is required than currently exists through GeoNet instrumentation. The network’s output provides defendable real-time information to building managers, emergency teams, and the public, allowing better management of response during seismic events.

Christchurch City Council's Smart Water Sensors will be getting an extra NZ$2 million to operate and install smart pressure and acoustic sensors in Christchurch's water supply network. This is part of a larger plan to improve the security of the districts water supply network. To keep drinking water safe and free from contamination in the long term, it is necessary to have control of the water supply and introduce smart monitoring.

- Ends –

Figure 1

Make your vote count and stand a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy S20+ drawn after the winners are announced in May.

About the Smart City Asia Pacific Awards

All finalists were selected using IDC's Smart City Development Index framework, a rigorous six-phase benchmarking process that involves input from various stakeholders, including the public. Public/citizen voting is the second phase of this framework and constitutes 25% in the judging criteria to determine the Best of the Best in 14 Smart City functional eService categories.

To learn more about IDC's Smart City research and advisory capabilities, please visit IDC Government Insights: Worldwide Smart Cities and Communities Strategies. IDC Government Insights has published its worldwide forecasts and strategic predictions, please access the report IDC FutureScape: Worldwide Smart Cities and Communities 2020 Predictions (IDC FutureScape #US44970019, October 2019).

For more information about IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards, visit www.idc.com/ap/smartcities. For queries about the methodology used for the Smart Development Index, contact Gerald Wang at gwang@idc.com. For media inquiries, contact Rebecca Baily, rbaily@idc.com

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