

International Honors:

This Year's International Top 20

Acome. A leader in fiber products for MDU deployments. See www.acome.fr.

ADC Krone. The company's OmniReach end-to-end fiber infrastructure system is gaining traction. Home Town Cable Plus recently deployed it for an all-fiber network in Port St. Lucie, Florida; services include IPTV. See www.adc.com.

AFL Telecommunications. A Fujikura company, AFL is best known in the US for its aerial fiber and hardware. But it has a complete line of FTTx network components and services. See www.afltele.com.

Alcatel. Already one of the most ubiquitous partners in network deployments around the world, the French giant is now merging with Lucent to offer even more complete solutions. See www.alcatel.com. Draka has combined with Alcatel in the global fiber business to create **Draka Comteq**; among other deployments, the combo is participating in the Amsterdam buildout.

Allied Telesyn. Network professionals know it is hard to find a network project, either for FTTN or FTTH, that does not use some of the company's equipment. But it has also started to deploy end-to-end solutions including IPTV. See www.alliedtelesyn.com/default.aspx. The company played the lead role in the Loma Linda deployment.

Cisco. There wouldn't be an Internet without Cisco, and the company has moved smartly into local fiber deployments as well, especially at the network edge with set-top boxes and MSAPs. But perhaps its greatest contribution is its vision for the uses to which mobile and remote computing can be put. The vision spurs new networks by others as well. See www.cisco.com.

Corning. The company continues to come up with clever ways to spread its mantra, "pre-connectorized fiber is the future," to the network-builder community. Its latest armored cable will cut deployment costs, and the firm looks forward to leveraging its European experience for the next few years' deployments in the US, where telcos are beginning to turn to MDUs. See www.corning.com/opticalfiber.

ECI Telecom. Its technology is particularly notable at the edges of optical networks – gateways, routers and MPLS splitters. The company's ADSL (as well as FTTH) experience in Europe makes it a company to watch as fiber advances. See www.ecitele.com.

Emtelle. The company has long been an innovator, and its technology is proving especially useful in the MDU space. But something else caught our eye this year: Another way to get fiber through the streets without massive excavation, blown fiber through microducts. How far can you blow fiber? For miles, it turns out. See www.emtelle.com.

Hitachi. The company sent staffers to Vienna, but had no booth presence. It has more experience than just about anyone in the MDU environment and in BPON, and has been moving into GPON and GePON. See www.hcm.hitachi.com.

Nexans. It started in copper, but its fiber cable is now found all over Europe, and the world. The company has many new products for deployment in MDU environments. See www.nexans.com.

NTT. One of the "holy grails" of the fiber business has been the creation of a fiber that's tough enough to stand up to inside-the-home deployments without having to be tacked, immovable, to the walls. NTT has done it. Other vendors are hot on NTT's heels. See www.ntt.co.jp/islab/e/org/as.html.

OFS. This fiber producer sells worldwide. Its AllWave, zero-water bendable fiber is, well, making waves. See www.ofsoptics.com.

PacketFront. The company has expanded its customer base in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America with BECS, a proven way for consumers to self-provision an open-access network. The company started originally with active optical networks, but now does a quarter of its business on PONs. The American headquarters is in Nashua, New Hampshire. See www.packetfront.com.

Siemens. The firm (www.siemens.com) has leveraged its telephony experience to build

fiber networks all over the world, often in partnership with companies that provide project and network management.

Tyco Electronics. Its particularly broad range of enclosures and sealing products finds its way into many networks worldwide. See www.telecomOSP.com.

Walt Disney Internet Group International. Here's one content provider that "gets it," and has been pushing for fast fiber and mobile networks so it can sell its innovative video and interactive gaming services. The company has enough clout to alter business plans in favor of more bandwidth, in less time. See http://corporate.disney.go.com/wdig/broadband_factsheet.html for details.

WienKanal. The thought of ripping up the streets of historic European capitals for fiber has sent financiers and preservationists into shock. The folks who run Vienna's sewer system came up with a solution, called CableRunner – a way to run fiber through existing sewers, some of them hundreds of years old. WienKanal, which is opening an office in Florida, can be reached at www.wienkanal.at. Another approach, also based in European technology, is to burst old pipe (water or sewer) in place, and insert new pipe with fiber running along the outside. That technology, discussed in the January issue, is being marketed by **Renaissance Integrated Solutions**, www.rensols.com.

Wave7 Optics. We talked to Wave7 personnel in Vienna, although there was no booth presence. It offers a wide range of technologies and the end-to-end Trident7 system. One of the companies to look for in the US when you want GePON. Its deployment success has been stellar. See www.wave7optics.com.

World Wide Packets. A pioneer in carrier-class deployments. In Vienna, WWP was partnering with Lucent. In the US, one of its latest deployments, a gigabit network in North Kansas City, is gaining recognition. See www.wwp.com.