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Congratulations To the Top 100 Broadband Companies

The Top 100 winners are not resting on their laurels – they're pushing the limits of broadband.

Compiling the **BROADBAND COMMUNITIES** Top 100 list is an eye-opening exercise. Even though I report on broadband news year-round, full-time, every July I'm amazed by the amount of innovation and creativity in this field – and the impossibility of paying adequate attention to all of it.

The list could easily include 150 companies, and most entries could easily be twice the length they are. (I had the unenviable task of paring the list and the descriptions down to manageable size. Many insightful comments by industry executives were also left on the cutting-room floor.)

Even in a down economy, these companies continue to push broadband to new frontiers, offering a steady stream of new products and services. The much-cited "innovation gap" is nowhere in evidence here.

I'd like to point out just a few of the varied achievements you'll find mentioned in the Top 100 article.

- Municipal FTTH provider LUS Fiber partnered with the University of Louisiana to give students and faculty direct connections from their home services to the university network.
- The SARDANA project, in which Tellabs is participating along with university researchers and France Telecom, is developing a WDM-PON architecture that will radically increase the capacity and reach of broadband networks. The project won the Global Telecoms Business Innovation Award for 2011.

- The Bristol Virginia Utilities FTTH network is so instrumental in its region's economic development that the company provides 50 percent of the funding for Bristol's economic development department.
- Motorola Mobility's new Televation device can distribute live TV to any connected IP devices in a home.
- New broadband routers from both Actiontec and Genexis support 1 Gbps speeds on home networks.
- G4S Technology is constructing the Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network, a 750-mile fiber optic medical network that will span 12 counties.
- The 3M One Pass Mini cable pathway lets providers take fiber from a building hallway into a living unit with minimal disruption.
- DIRECTV broadcast the first Major League Baseball All-Star game in 3D.
- SureWest is capitalizing on its fiber optic network by using it to provide wireless backhaul. It announced agreements with national wireless carriers to provide service to 360 cellular towers.

I have to agree with Ric Johnsen, senior vice president for broadband at CommScope, one of this year's Top 100 broadband companies, who told us, "It is an exciting time to be in the broadband industry."

Masha Zager

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