

## **NEC Australia and OptiComm's partnership wins top award**

**Melbourne, 8 July 2009** – NEC Australia's partnership with fibre-to-the premises specialist carrier OptiComm has won the "Partnership for Growth Award" in the prestigious 2010 ACOMM Awards beating competition from Alcatel-Lucent/Telstra, Huawei/Optus and Clarity/TelstraClear.

The ACOMM Awards recognise excellence in the communications industry and are granted by Communications Alliance and Communications Day. The Partnership for Growth award recognises the contribution NEC and OptiComm have made to the changing communications industry in Australia and their work across Greenfield sites and with NBNCo Tasmania.

To enable OptiComm to build and maintain the FTTP infrastructure in Greenfield estates, the company chose NEC supply to locally support core and access technology. Under the partnership, OptiComm installs the backhaul network back to capital city Points of Interconnect, and in the housing estates deploys NEC's GPON (Gigabit Passive Optical Network) technology for connectivity to each home or business.

GPON can serve up to 128 homes or businesses on a single fibre and the technology provides better broadband access for Australia's geographically dispersed population as it extends further than the current infrastructure, facilitating faster broadband.

Michael Johannessen said NEC was uniquely positioned to work with OptiComm to assist them with carrier grade optical networking infrastructure.

"NEC was the only company in Australia that was able to supply the infrastructure that allows a genuine open access environment using GPON technology," he said. "Winning our third ACOMM award in a decade is a ringing endorsement of the way NEC has helped to change communications in Australia.

OptiComm CEO Paul Cross said partnering with NEC meant OptiComm could reassure both the estate developers and the retail service providers (RSPs) that each "branded" service in the estates would be provided and backed by an Australian company using carrier grade GPON FTTP to ensure reliable broadband connectivity with contracted service level agreements."

"NEC was able to bring to the table its vast experience in optical systems delivering voice, video

and data applications,” Cross said.

The winners of the prestigious 2010 ACOMM Awards held by Communications Day and Communications Alliance were announced last night at Sydney's Four Seasons Hotel.

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