

APSCC Announces Finalists for its First Young Talent Award

Recognizing the Best and Brightest Young Talent in the APAC Satellite Industry

Seoul, Korea – 14 September 2017: The Asia Pacific Satellite Communications Council (APSCC) announced the finalists for its first Young Talent Award. The Award is the latest initiative of APSCC to ensure a healthy future for the satellite industry and to attract and retain young talent to the satellite and space industries in Asia-Pacific region.

Finalists of the 2017 APSCC Young Talent Award:

- ✧ **Qinglong Cui**
Product Engineer, APT Satellite
- ✧ **Ali Akhtar**
Head of Commercial, Satellite Services, Supernet
- ✧ **Atsushi Ayuta**
Service Operations Engineer, SKY Perfect JSAT
- ✧ **Thilini Bandare**
Director, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, APAC, SpeedCast

The four finalists were selected by a committee of APSCC Board of Directors based on nominations submitted by the members of APSCC. "This year, APSCC and the Awards Committee are pleased to recognize young satellite industry employees with leadership potential. The finalists this year were chosen for their demonstration of initiative, innovation and creativity that positively gave impact on the Asia-Pacific satellite industry. Congratulations to the finalists." said Daryl Mossman (SSL), Chair of the 2017 APSCC Awards Committee.

The winner of the Young Talent Award will be announced on October 12 at the APSCC 2017 Satellite Conference & Exhibition, in Tokyo Japan. To give the best of the young staff encouragement and public recognition of their contributions, the winner will receive full scholarship (AU\$12,900 value sponsored by the International Space University <http://www.isunet.edu/> and Astroscale <http://astroscale.com/>) for the 2018 Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program (SH-SSP).

For more information on the APSCC 2017 Satellite Conference & Exhibition, visit:
www.apsc2017.com.

About APSCC

APSCC is a non-profit international organization representing the satellite and space-industries in the Asia-Pacific region including satellite service providers, manufacturers, launch service providers, risk management companies, broadcasters, and government organizations. The overall objective of the APSCC is to promote communications and broadcasting via satellite as well as outer space activities in the region through conferences, forums, workshops as well as exhibitions for the socioeconomic welfare of the region. For more information, visit: www.apsc.or.kr.

Press Contact

Anna Kim
Director, Media Relations, APSCC
Tel +82 31 783 6246
Email info@apsc.or.kr



2017 APSCC Young Talent Award Finalists

Qinglong Cui

Product Engineer, APT Satellite



Cui Qinglong joined APT Satellite and has worked as a product engineer since 2013. He has participated in three new satellite projects in APT: Apstar-5C, Apstar-6C and Apstar-6D, in which he was responsible for payload design. With his innovative ideas and smart solutions, the company eventually obtained three flexible and cost effective payload design to meet the uncertainty and dynamic change of market demand.

Cui also works as a project manager in the Apstar-6D project. Apstar-6D is a full HTS satellite targeting mainly at mobility services. In this project, he started from market research and collected adequate real time data of different mobility services. He also developed a series of in-door software and tools to facilitate the analysis of the demand data, simulating the HTS patterns. Based on the input from these tools, he and his colleagues developed a payload design solution with maximized throughput and perfectly in line with the demand requirement,

taking full usage of platform capacity as well as state-of-the-art payload technologies. With his excellent work, Apstar-6D project has been greatly accelerated and proceed orderly.

Before joining APT, Cui had two years of working experience at Chinasatcom as an assistant communication engineer. His education background includes a Master Degree in Information Engineering in CUHK and a Bachelor Degree in Electronic, Science and Technology from Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications.

Ali Akhtar

Head of Commercial, Satellite Services, Supernet



A telecommunications engineer, Ali has been with the satellite communications industry since 2010. As a key executive of the satellite communications industry in Pakistan and Head of Commercial at Supernet, Pakistan's largest satellite communications system integrator and service provider, Ali has a lead role in coming up with practical solutions to connect the unconnected in the country.

Ali has worked closely with equipment manufacturers and satellite operators ensuring that the satellite industry in Pakistan stays abreast of and contributes to the global technological roadmap. Envisioning the potential of High Throughput Satellites, Ali made certain that the needs of Pakistani entities are met with the right technical and commercial HTS based solutions enabling them to reap the full benefits of the new age satellite communications technologies.

For a very tough Pakistani cellular backhaul market, upgrading existing networks and launching new services has been nothing short of 'mission impossible'. Having cultivated robust partnerships with the supply chain, Ali brought together all the pieces of the puzzle, resulting in solutions achieving transmission rates as high as 11 bits per hertz from the MNOs' point of view. The resultant CapEx and OpEx savings helped the MNOs to upgrade their 2G networks and then use these savings to launch 3G and LTE services on both GEO and MEO platforms with such service expansions continuing to date. Ali's efforts have also enabled other industries take full advantage of the advancement of satellite communications technologies resulting in the addition of over a thousand new satellite based connections in the past couple of years.



2017 APSCC Young Talent Award Finalists

Atsushi Ayuta

Service Operations Engineer, SKY Perfect JSAT



Atsushi Ayuta is an engineer of the Spectrum Monitoring team, Service Operations Division at SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation and is responsible for constructing and maintaining the Company's worldwide satellite network monitoring systems.

Atsushi joined SKY Perfect JSAT in 2010 and started to work on managed services run by the Company. In 2013, he moved to JSAT International, SKY Perfect JSAT's subsidiary based in Washington, DC as a communication engineer. In April 2015, he returned to Japan and re-joined the Company's Service Operations Division to work on reducing interference issues.

One of Atsushi's notable achievements is that he advocated the importance of collaboration among satellite operators and other industrial relatives. Upon the request of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications in Japan, he attended the International Space Radio Monitoring Meeting 2016, and as a presenter from the Japanese private sector and asserted the importance of cooperation among satellite operators and regulatory agencies to mitigate satellite interference. As a result, he raised people's awareness of the interference mitigation, an accomplishment attributable to his character.

Atsushi also directed new monitoring site construction projects in Hawaii, Kuala Lumpur, Perth and Papua New Guinea and is now managing SKY Perfect JSAT's geo-location system replacement project.

Thilini Bandare

Director, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, APAC, SpeedCast



Thilini Bandare is a graduate of University of Wales with a Masters in International Trade Law, and has proceeded to work in fast paced, technology concentrated industries since graduation. Passionate about space and the satellite industry, the move to Speedcast has been a natural fit. Thilini is currently based in Kuala Lumpur, Speedcast's largest office in Asia Pacific, overseeing legal and regulatory work for the Asia Pacific region in her capacity as Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs (APAC).

Recognized for her P&L approach to contract closure and embracing Speedcast cultural values, her career growth has been accelerated, and she is one of the youngest female members of Speedcast's leadership group.

Thilini started her career in the telecommunications industry where she worked closely with the engineering and operations teams, thus igniting her first spark of interest in frequency spectrum and the technology industry. This interest has blossomed at Speedcast, where she thrives on overcoming the challenges posed by regulatory hurdles especially in the maritime VSAT sector.

Thilini finds the satellite industry to be very dynamic, and enjoys being a part of the industry by bringing partnerships into fruition through contracts, like her involvement in setting up the first military grade teleport in Australia for military communications satellites.