

Media statement
29 May 2012

Orion technology wins international award

Christchurch-based electricity network company Orion New Zealand Limited has been awarded the prestigious international Apex Award for 2012 by the Utilities Telecommunications Council (UTC). This award recognises utilities that employ communications networks to benefit the communities they serve. To determine who should receive the award, UTC looks at the impacts of the service provided and the difference it makes within the community.

Orion won the Apex Award because of its private mission-critical radio communications network which withstood all of the Canterbury earthquakes, allowing teams to start to restore power immediately while maintaining communications in the field. This innovative wireless technology was vital to Orion's response and created benefits for the entire community, as it shortened the length of power cuts.

"Seven years ago, after a worldwide search for a modern wireless communications solution, we found the solution right here in Christchurch with a technology developed by MiMOMax Wireless Limited. Together, Orion and MiMOMax developed the product over a two-year period and created a radio communications solution specific to Orion's needs. The result was a world-first wireless network which has proved its resilience and value over the past 18 months," says Orion Chief Executive, Rob Jamieson.

The wireless solution allows Orion to 'talk to' various assets around the electricity network over a large and diverse geographical area, and operate and protect the network by remote control.

"We are proud that our local product has been recognised internationally. UTC is an American body which represents critical infrastructure operators worldwide, and this is the first time an Apex Award has been granted outside of the United States," continues Mr Jamieson.

UTC has acknowledged that Orion's earthquake response was of a standard that would, in its view, not normally be achievable and that Orion is a world leader in this area.

The award ceremony was held on Tuesday, 22 May 2012 at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, Florida. Paul Daigneault, Chief Executive of MiMOMax, received the award on behalf of Orion.

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For further information, please see below or contact:

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Below is a link to the UTC press release on the UTC website:

<http://www.utc.org/utc/orion-and-public-service-electric-and-gas-company-win-prestigious-utc-apex-award>

About Orion:

Orion New Zealand Limited:

- owns and operates the electricity distribution network in central Canterbury between the Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers, and from the Canterbury coast to Arthur's Pass
- transports electricity from 10 Transpower grid exit points to more than 190,000 homes and businesses, and is one of New Zealand's largest electricity networks
- is ultimately owned by the Christchurch City Council (89.3%) and the Selwyn District Council (10.7%) via those council's respective holding companies – Christchurch City Holdings Limited and Selwyn Investment Holdings Limited
- owns the electrical contracting business, Connetics.

About MiMOMax:

MiMOMax Wireless Limited is a Christchurch-based company that specialises in ultra-spectrally efficient, very low latency and long-range narrow band (12.5 kHz and 25 kHz) linking solutions for utilities, public safety and transport markets.

Our "seriously smart" IP radios utilise the MiMO (Multiple Input Multiple Output) Space Time Diversity to successfully deliver up to 16b/s/Hz spectral efficiency. MiMOMax point-to-point (OPV and NDL) and point-to-multipoint (MDL) SCADA radios are designed to provide reliable communications over long paths in harsh terrains. Offering many software-enabled feature options and multiple layers of security, the future-defensive radio platform also supports legacy systems.

MiMOMax offers complete solutions for linking mission-critical infrastructure.