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WHP Initiative: Healthcare for the Rural Poor Takes Top Prize at IT @ Networking Awards 2011

Prachi Shukla from World Health Partners in India fought off fierce competition to take home the coveted IT @ 2011 Trophy and a record 5,000 Euro cash prize at the IT @ Networking Awards 2011.

The winning solution, Healthcare for the Rural Poor, combines technology with village entrepreneurs acting as facilitators to connect rural communities with formally qualified urban doctors. Using remote medical diagnostics integrated with audio-video conferencing software this project enables patients from villages to access efficient and specialised healthcare in their areas.

Second place was awarded to "Clinical Workstation (CWS), the GPS of Every Medical User" (presented by Rudi Van de Velde).

Third place went to "From 'Micro-' Towards 'Macro-' Mobility. Building Efficient Clinical Processes by Using a Hospital-Wide, Standardised and 'Near-' Patient Communication Platform" (presented by Carl Dujat).

EAHM was proud to collaborate with HITM (European Association of Healthcare IT Managers) for this two-day competition recognising innovators in healthcare IT and medical technology at the Théâtre du Vaudeville in Brussels, Belgium. A great learning opportunity, this original event promoted open discussion between competitors from across Europe and beyond. Presenters shared not only their successes but also the obstacles they encountered along the way.

Willy Heuschen, EAHM Secretary General was on hand to officially open the event, welcoming contestants and delegates. Mr. Heuschen highlighted the increasing importance and relevance of healthcare IT and the great opportunity the IT @ Networking Awards is for decision-makers to learn about these solutions; to have access to their developers and users; and to ask questions and judge the projects themselves.

The competition consists of two rounds of presentations. Day one, the 20 nominees took to the stage for their MindByte presentations (five minutes). After each presentation the audience and panel of expert judges had the opportunity to ask questions before voting. The top nine projects from day one progressed to the second round of competition: Work- Bench presentations. Each finalist had 30 minutes to present their project in detail and prove why they deserved to win. This was followed with a 15 minute Q&A session before voting. A lively two days, the audience and panel of expert judges did not hold back in questioning each presenter before casting their votes!

For more information, please visit: www.itandnetworking.org

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