THREE AWARDS, FOUR WINNERS, SEVERAL FIRSTS: THE 2017 GÉANT COMMUNITY AWARDS

The 2017 GÉANT Community Awards were the first time a prize has been awarded jointly to more than one person; the first time one has been awarded in the category 'significant contributions within the past 12 months'; the first time that 3 prizes have been awarded all in different categories; and the first time that a winner has been a woman – in fact there were two!

Hannah Short (CERN), Maja Górecka-Wolniewicz together with her husband Tomasz Wolniewicz (PSNC & Nicolaus Copernicus University), and Massimo Parovel (Music Conservatory G. Tartini, Trieste) were honoured for their contributions to research and education networking. Their awards were presented on behalf of the panel of judges by Valter Nordh, chair of the GÉANT Community Committee, during the opening plenary session of this year's networking conference, TNC17, in Linz, Austria.

MASSIMO PAROVEL

Massimo won in the category 'shared an idea with the community that led to a significant development over time'. His idea was to allow performing artists to interact in a natural way even if they are located thousands of kilometres apart. The result was a low latency audio-visual system known as LOLA, which exploits the high-quality and very large bandwidth connectivity offered by research and education networks to almost obliterate network-related delay and variations. With the LOLA project supported by the Tartini Conservatory of Trieste and Consortium GARR in Italy, LOLA became available worldwide and has now been used for educational purposes, masterclasses and performances of musicians, dancers and actors at various events including our own annual networking conference, TNC. "They made a series of spectacular demos," said the panel of judges: "If Massimo is the mastermind behind LOLA he definitely deserves an award!"

"It was a wonderful surprise to know that I was selected," Massimo said. "LOLA came from an inspired idea that I shared with a great group of people, each one a top-level expert in the fields of science, technology and professional music. I am grateful to those who proposed my nomination."

TOMASZ WOLNIEWICZ AND MAJA GÓRECKA-WOLNIEWICZ

Tomasz and Maja shared an award in the category 'has significantly contributed to many collaborative activities throughout several years" for their work on the eduGAIN service infrastructure, the eduroam CAT tool and other activities. The judges agreed that a joint prize in this category was appropriate because although Tomasz is the better-known 'front man', Maja is known to be doing a lot of the technical work in the background. "They are a strong team working very productively together," Valter Nordh said. "They really have great qualities in that they are relentless in trying to find solutions for things while keeping a low profile." Their work for the GÉANT community is supported by an agreement between their principal employer, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland, and PSNC, the Polish NREN. Even though Tomasz was promoted within the university to become the CIO, he has kept up all his contributions to the community work at his previous pace. "Others might have just taken the career step and abandoned the work previously committed to others," Valter says. "It is a good time for us to say thank you for this commitment from them both."

"We were totally surprised and obviously very pleased to receive this award," Maja and Tomasz agree. "The surprise is magnified by the fact that we realise there are many brilliant and deserving people in the NREN community. The work that we have been doing was always huge pleasure and seeing that it is appreciated makes it even more so."

HANNAH SHORT

Hanna works in CERN's IT Department, and is a relative newcomer to the research and education networking community. Nevertheless, she has proved "a very valuable addition", according to the judges. The judges commended Hannah for making 'significant contributions to important developments within the past 12 months' through her leadership of work in the REFEDS and AARC project communities on 'Sirtfi' - the Security Incident Response Trust Framework for Federated Identity. This is a significant security development because Sirtfi enables the coordination of incident response across federated organisations. Acknowledging that Hannah had received three nominations, the judges said that she had succeeded in coordinating across these various groups and had pushed for the work to be done well.

Hannah said: "Joining this community has not only been a challenge and an opportunity, but it's been great fun! Thanks in particular to all those I've had the pleasure of working with through Sirtfi. As a new face in a well-established field, I've felt that both my participation and ideas have been very welcome. When I'm part of the furniture in years to come, I hope I'll be a part of keeping this attitude alive."

FURTHER INFORMATION

With the Community Awards GÉANT honours people who have contributed significant ideas, time and expertise to the development of the research and education networking community's collaborative achievements, and recognises that these contributions are often provided voluntarily and through the good will of employer organisations.

In addition to Valter Nordh, this year's judges were Christian Grimm – chair of the GÉANT Board of Directors – and Christian Panigl – host of TNC17 and chair of the Programme Committee.

See the overview of all winners at: **https://www. geant.org/People/Community_Awards/Pages/ Overview_of_winners.aspx**