

'Exceptional people' honored at Dallas Patent Awards Gala

Patent recipients urged to be 'involved and opinionated' in rejuvenated Nortel IPR process

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DALLAS – “The collective genius of Nortel is in this room,” declared Tim Collins. “Your patents are the lifeblood of this company. Above all, keep those patent disclosures flowing.” Collins is the company’s Assistant General Counsel for IP Law, responsible for administering Nortel’s patent program. He was speaking to a group of more than 100 Nortel engineers, their spouses and significant others at the third of three 2007 Patent Award Galas, this one held in Dallas.

The event was staged at the historic Adolphus Hotel, a 95-year-old baroque-style five-star landmark in the heart of downtown Dallas whose guest list has included Queen Elizabeth II and American “royals” such as the Vanderbilts.

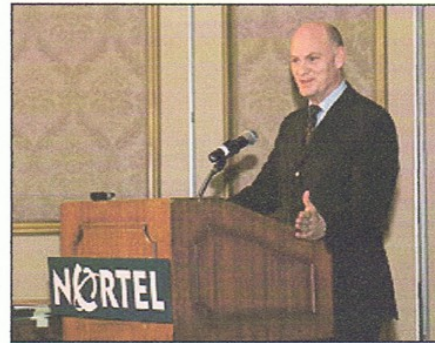
The venue marked quite an upgrade from patent award ceremonies in recent years. For the past several years, patents award ceremonies have been held in cafeterias and auditoriums at Nortel’s key R&D sites. At the Richardson event last year, held in the cafeteria, Mike Zafirovski, President and Chief Executive Officer, declared then that the company would return to celebrating Nortel’s innovators in a more appropriate style.

Collins noted that 2007 also represents a turning point in Nortel’s patent program. “Mike Z challenged us to go on the offensive, to take the fight to the other guys.” That challenge resulted in a bottom-up assessment of the company’s intellectual property portfolio, together with a process to foster those patents that are key to Nortel’s future.

Collins encouraged the patent recipients in Dallas to “set personal goals for yourselves for 2008,” and to become “active, involved, and opinionated. Take the time to mentor colleagues and bring them up to speed on the process.”

Richard Lowe, Carrier Networks President and co-host with CTO John Ruese for the Dallas Gala, said, “Innovation is the linchpin of this company, and the true manifestation of innovation is the awarding of patents. We are pleased to honor you here today.”

Mike Z echoed those comments via recorded video, calling the patent recipients “exceptional people” and drew a comparison to Thomas Edison, creator of the light bulb and a thousand other inventions. He also offered “a special thank you” to the spouses and partners, “who provide the support that allows you to flourish.”



Tim Collins, Nortel Assistant General Counsel for IP Law, presented the patent and patent filing awards at the Dallas gala.



John Ruese, Chief Technology Officer, told the engineers, “Your next invention may be the greatest one in the history of telecommunications.” He cited numerous examples of market-changing innovation throughout Nortel’s 112-year legacy, including the emergence of digital telephony, fiber transmission, wireless communications, and the recent shift from circuit-switched voice to IP.

“Nortel has been at the forefront of every major technology shift in the telecom industry – and each of those shifts has in some way changed the world and the user experience,” Ruese said.

John Roese (left) and Richard Lowe (right) join Geng Wu (center), who received his 20th cumulative patent, and David Paranchych (left center) and Haseeb Akhtar (right center), who each passed the 15th cumulative patent award mark.

He noted that today, Nortel is not just a "player" in next-generation (4G) wireless, but that our OFDM-MIMO patents and patent applications provide the company with "true

leadership" in emerging markets such as WiMAX. Roese also referenced our bold innovation in Ethernet to overcome problems with the MPLS approach many in the industry were pursuing (our Ethernet innovation was critical to our selection by BT for their new network), as well as patents in Unified Communications which helped foster Nortel's strategic relationship with Microsoft.

The CTO also emphasized that the players in the industry are changing, noting Google, Yahoo, and Apple. Roese held out a challenge to the engineering community regarding the coming Web 2.0 revolution: Instead of just static, "encyclopedic" information on the Internet, "Web 2.0 is about being able to access the person who wrote the encyclopedia – interact, collaborate, even talk to the creators." Roese said, "We haven't figured out how to do that yet. And that's a huge opportunity. We are here to invent the next technology."

The Dallas Gala honored employees from Atlanta, Nashville, Research Triangle Park, Richardson, and Santa Clara who were granted patents or filed applications in 2006. Among those were several engineers marking milestones of cumulative awards:

25th Cumulative Patent Recipient - Ashvin Chheda, Richardson

20th Cumulative Patent Recipient - Geng Wu, Richardson

15th Cumulative Patent Recipient - Haseeb Akhtar, Richardson; David Paranchych, Richardson

10th Cumulative Patent Recipient - Steve McKinnon, RTP; David Paranchych, Richardson

5th Cumulative Patent Recipient - Rodney Adams, Richardson; Azeem Ahmad, Richardson; Darwin Engwer, Santa Clara; Jun Li, Richardson; Larry Marcanti, Richardson; Gregory Osterhout, Richardson; Curtis Provost, Richardson; Yuqiang Tang, Richardson

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