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Digital news takes top Innovation honour

■ Excellence in content creation, management and delivery is celebrated at IBC Innovation Awards Ceremony in RAI

Last night saw the IBC Awards Ceremony, a lively evening where the honours went to those at the leading edge, of knowledge, design and creativity. Perfectly capturing the spirit of the evening, the top prize in the IBC Innovation Award went to CNN for its digital newsgathering project.

The IBC Innovation Awards celebrate excellence in the creation of rounded technical and operational solutions. What makes them unique is that the submissions come from both the technical supplier and the end user: successful entrants will be working solutions that meet a real need.

There are three categories: content creation, won by CNN's digital newsgathering; for content management, won by the instant tapeless production system at RTL-TVi; and for content delivery, won by another news project, ITN's NeMeSys.

The international panel of



From left: IBC Chairman Michael Bunce with CNN's New Technology VP Dick Tauber, Senior Technical Architect Sardy Bernard and Operations Manager Arnie Christianson

judges, under the chairmanship of Michael Lumley, have another award in their gift, the Judges' Prize, and this too went to CNN.

"We sincerely want to thank the Innovation Award judges and committee for selecting DNG, our digital newsgathering project, for this outstanding and select achievement," said Dick Tauber,

VP, transmission systems and new technology for the CNN News Group, speaking on behalf of the whole team.

Acknowledging that the essence of the IBC Innovation Awards is the partnership between users and technology suppliers, Tauber continued, "Without the tireless efforts of dozens of CNN staff and the

help and co-operation of our partners – Apple, Galaxy-1 Communications, Hughes Network Systems, Inmarsat, L-3 Global Communications Solutions, Streambox and Vizada – we could never have made the DNG system and workflow such a magnificent newsgathering tool and a pre-eminent success."

He added, "No single company or individual could have done this alone: it was a team effort," before paying a posthumous tribute to one of the much-loved members of the CNN team on the project, Dan Young.

CNN's coverage of the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict in July 2006 opened a new chapter in newsgathering technology: the use of small, lightweight, IP-based internet connections, in tandem with conventional satellite uplinks, provided a new level of sophistication to on the scene reports.

Journalists filed hundreds of

live reports, using portable IP transmission gear that fits into a backpack, from remote locations close to the action. The result was to bring viewers close to the story as it unfolded. Technically, it is the first complete newsgathering tool that works over any existing IP infrastructure, giving the journalist immediate live and video FTP submission, realtime content monitoring, editing and voice communication.

"This is exactly the sort of project that deserves recognition," said Michael Lumley, chair of the judging panel and producer of the awards ceremony. "A major broadcaster had a clear idea of what it wanted to achieve, and brought together a team of technical partners to make it happen."

"In a particularly strong field of entries this year it was never going to be easy to pick a Judges' Prize, but this is a most worthy winner."

Anniversary honour: Making History

IBC in its 40th anniversary year honoured a great institution in its 50th year. The BBC Natural History Unit received a unique IBC award for its remarkable contribution to wildlife documentaries

award, IBC has recognised our anniversary and our contribution to broadcasting the wonders of nature."

It all started with black and white films from broadcasting

ough and the NHU continues *Life in Cold Blood* due to premiere next year.

"From the start, the producers and photographers of the BBC Natural History Unit took the

