Europe's most technically advanced local authorities spotlight the future of e-government with NextiraOne

Advanced communications systems deployed by NextiraOne begin to create competitive advantage for cities and regions seeking inward investment

2 November, 2004. Some of Europe's most cutting-edge local authorities are well ahead with their timetable for introducing e-government practices, with investments in next-generation communications solutions enabling them to provide superior service to the public, according to NextiraOne.

European local authorities are working to deliver more and more of their public services online and in many cases face deadlines imposed by central government to do so. International analysis of the public sector by NextiraOne, which has a long track record of delivering communications solutions for local authorities, analysed e-government projects carried out across Europe to ascertain which regions showed distinctive levels of innovation.

According to NextiraOne, 10 of the most technically advanced communications deployments carried out for European local authorities by NextiraOne are:

- Conseil Général des Yvelines (France)
- Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine (France)
- Gemeente Gouda (Netherlands)
- Mairie de Lyon (France)
- Bedfordshire County Council (UK)
- Middlesbrough Borough Council (UK)
- Province of Liege (Belgium)
- Provincial Government of Lower Austria (Austria)
- Assemblea Regionale Siciliana (Italy)
- Stockton Borough Council (UK)

NextiraOne is a leading global provider of next-generation communication solutions and has been working for local authorities for more than a decade. For e-government, its solutions are prioritised around IP-based converged network infrastructure. The most frequently deployed applications are in security, surveillance and alarm systems, integration with existing council applications, unified communications, advanced personal mobility technologies and ongoing managed services.

"While e-government initiatives in Europe remain very much under scrutiny, there are some shining examples of extremely innovative investment that is making a real difference to the

quality of services on offer to the public," said Pierre Créau, Vice President of European Public Sector Strategy, NextiraOne.

"Europe's most advanced local authorities see advanced communications technologies not just as a way to save costs through greater efficiency and improved service to the public, but also as an economic issue that will help attract investment to their regions. More and more, e-government is becoming more of a sales point than a headache to tackle," he said.

NextiraOne identified the 10 local authorities listed here as examples of technically advanced organisations that have instigated services that are either beyond the targets set under their respective e-government mandates or have met their e-government targets ahead of deadline through innovative use of technology.

The NextiraOne solutions portfolio addresses the five critical issues impacting the deployment and management of local government data and voice communications infrastructure:

- Service enablement – improving the provision of e-government applications to the public using advanced communication technologies
- Operational excellence – improving management efficiency, effectiveness and accountability
- Security – complete communications infrastructure security and security services, ensuring continuous cost-effective protection through surveillance, alarming, integrated emergency services systems and integrated computer telephony security
- Services – managed services and financial models to guarantee high quality services delivered in the most economical manner, including minimising network downtime
- Mobility – creating an infrastructure that allows authorised individuals to communicate and share information securely no matter where they are working from, using advanced integrated mobility applications and devices

"The biggest problem facing local authorities when contemplating these communications projects for e-government is that they lack experience of working with this type of technology," said Pierre Créau. "The ones that have been able to make their requirements clear and evaluate technologies in close alignment with their needs are the ones that have been most successful in deploying communications solutions and which have benefited most from doing so."

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About NextiraOne
Headquartered in Paris and Houston, NextiraOne is a leading global provider of integrated enterprise network solutions and services that enable effective, reliable business communications. We cover everything from planning and design to the implementation, support and management of voice, data and converged communications networks. We provide best-in-class technologies from leading partners including Alcatel, Cisco Systems, Genesys and Nortel Networks. And we offer consultation and solutions development ranging from contact centre applications to network infrastructure outsourcing. Discover more at www.nextiraone.com. NextiraOne is owned by Platinum Equity (www.platinumequity.com), a global acquisition firm specializing in the strategic operation of mission-critical services and solutions businesses according to a unique M&A&O^{SM} model of value creation.

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