

newsbits

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Maxum graduate receives DISA award for novel new media gateway

VASTech, a network recording and passive surveillance solutions company, that graduated from the Maxum Business Incubator in 2006, recently received a DISA Design Excellence Award for their innovative Zebra E1/T1 Gateway - a media gateway that serves as a bridge between computers and telephone networks. The product offers flexible, distributable communications systems architecture with unlimited scalability.

The Zebra Gateway bridges two very different technology domains, namely that of computers and telephone networks. It creates a myriad of opportunities for software engineers to access the telephony market and develop new applications and value added services required by today's converging telecommunications networks.

This media gateway translates communications traffic from E1/T1 time division multiplexing networks to TCP/IP over gigabit per second Ethernet. According to VASTech Managing Director, Frans Dreyer, it achieves eight times the connectivity of similar interfaces. It enables the implementation of telecommunications services in software, where others depend on hardware.

The Zebra Gateway allows value added services to be effectively deployed on powerful blade servers. In addition, it has a small footprint and only takes up a fraction of the floor space required by hardware intensive systems. This approach saves space, heat, and electricity, scarce resources in modern telecommunications switching rooms.

Earlier generation products are physically larger, consist of many more modules, consume more power, generate more heat and are difficult to install, upgrade and maintain. The Zebra Gateway uses high-speed Ethernet to distribute traffic and share the load between servers. This eliminates the restrictions imposed on scalability by TDM switch matrices and provides redundancy and high levels of systems availability which are critical factors for telecommunications networks.

"Hardware based systems support capacities of up to 1920 telephony channels whereas Zebra scales seamlessly to 300 000 channels", says Dreyer. As it does not perform any higher level protocol translations, the product is suitable for a wide range of applications.

According to Dreyer, the media gateway comprises the latest design techniques and components of the so called "new generation technologies" being rolled out in today's modern, converged telecommunications networks. "As a flexible and powerful building block, we envisage it being deployed in a multitude of value added services including network recording solutions, traffic backhaul, VoIP and voice mail services", he concludes.

For more information on VASTech, contact Frans Dreyer at 012 349 6500 or visit their website at www.vastech.co.za.

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Ltr Mr Martin Kuscus (SABS), Mr Frans Dreyer, VasTech, Mr Roelf Mulder and Mr Tshediso Matona, Director General of the Department of Trade & Industry.



The Zebra E1/T1 Gateway - the bridge between today's computer and telephone networks.