

Emerging Digital Solutions Award

The Emerging Digital Solutions winner is selected for their proven and scalable innovative digital solutions capable of transforming the wellbeing, prosperity, connectivity or productivity of others around the world.

This award will take into consideration the successful application of ICT in such areas as humanitarianism, health, social awareness and justice, rule of law, sustainable growth, business and commerce, health care, education, as well as the effective delivery of public services and transparency.

The Emerging Digital Solutions program recognizes early-stage or veteran companies whose solutions are new, and scalable to other locations throughout the world. The Emerging Digital Solutions program is looking for solutions that can be presented to interested policy makers, investors, corporations and social stakeholders with the potential to boost its development and deployment, aiming to significantly impact individuals, groups and societies.

YOUR NOMINEES (limit three nominations per award category). *Please specify whether the nominee(s) are for the private or public sector category.*

Award #1:

National Equipment Identification Register (NEIR)
A Platform for Socio-Economic Growth & National Security

REASONS FOR NOMINATION (NOTE: It is important that you make a detailed description of the nominee and why you think the nomination is justified. The absence of a detailed summary of qualifications as they *relate* to the above-mentioned award description will make it difficult for the awards committee to make an appropriate assessment of the candidate):

National Equipment Identification Register (NEIR) is an important project for Bangladesh Government. Developed for Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) this project aims to validate mobile handset across the country. Back in 2012 BTRC took the First initiative to shut down the illegal mobile phones as well as register the legal phones. But the initiative has been unsuccessful for number of reasons. On November 25th 2020 Synesis IT went into contract with BTRC along with Radisson Digital Technologies Limited and Computer World BD as a joint venture. Synesis was given a timeline to finish the project within March 2021.

Social Impact: There will be a multi-level impact as a result of implementation of NEIR. Through this milestone project people will be able to buy genuine and authentic mobile phones imported in a legal way in Bangladesh. So, people will feel more secured and ensured about buying new phones. Apart from that since IMEI will be paired with SIMs and NID, mobile theft will also be reduced to almost none. This will bring a great impact on society.

Economic Impact: Since this project will ensure genuine products, it has the potentiality to attract international mobile manufacturers in Bangladesh. Resulting in more and more foreign investment and creating job scope for the Bangladeshi nationals and ultimately hitting the economy of Bangladesh.

Government Revenue: At least 30% of the country's TK. 10,000 crore handset market is dominated by illegally imported phones, BMPIA reveals. About 2.5 Million worth of 3,000 Cr. TK. brought illegally every year. With this project going live on June 2021, after that all the illegal mobile phone import will come down to zero. Any mobile with IMEI not registered in BTRC data base will not be able to function in the country. Hence every phone has to be imported in legal way. This will help government to tap into a huge revenue pool that has been untouched because of proper monitoring.

Environmental and Health concerns: As all the mobile phone imported through this process has to be from authentic seller it will reduce import of all duplicate phone. Reducing environmental hazards caused by duplicate phone with harmful radiation.

Fraud Reduction: Although Through CBVMP project registering mobile phone with NID and biometric has significantly reduced fraud caused by using SIM, this project hopes to reduce fraud cases to a minimum level.

The overall setup will have a WEB, Mobile and Citizen portal to serve the nation. Through the web portal BTRC & Bangladesh customs will be able to verify mobile phone by using IMEI no. NEIR will be integrated with CBVMP (another project undertaken by Synesis IT), NAID, GSMA and EIR. With these integrations the project will ensure proper Blacklisting, White listing and Gray listing of mobile phones throughout the country. The system will also have a contact center with Complaint Management system and ticket generation system for those who need to connect and need proper guidelines. This contact center will also be managed by Synesis IT on behalf of BTRC. The overall system will have 24/7 IT support if any kind of emergency occurs. BTRC will also have a Report and monitoring system at their end with Dashboard, Fraud Analysis, and Environment Monitoring System etc.

The system is quite simple and complicated at the same time, NEIR is the central system that will provide the ability to check any mobile devices, ensure their network access eligibility based on BTRC directives time to time. It will lock the MSISDN, IMEI, IMSI and NID of a user together and store it in the database. Based on the specified criteria it will maintain a Black List, Grey List, White List, Roaming List, Lost & Stolen List etc. The NEIR database will be established at BTRC to provide full data interiority. Another crucial part is EIR or Equipment Identity Register, it is a database that will be installed and maintained by each mobile service operator end. It will contain the records of all mobile stations/devices that are active in their own network. It will also restrict the lost, stolen, reported devices according to the lists provided by NEIR. Mobile network operators will provide IMEI and MSISDN related information (required data/information) of all users directly to NEIR in order to operate and manage lists or database. BTRC's enlisted local handset manufacturer and mobile phone importers can apply and receive the NOC certificate for mobile phone importation through online system. An IMEI database is also in-built with this system. IMEI numbers for both legally imported mobile handsets as well as locally assembled/manufactured mobile handsets will be listed to the system. Besides these IMEI numbers, database will also store all other necessary attributes of mobile devices such as TAC, device name, model, device image, device supported frequency bands, etc. Using this NAID system, end user/subscriber is able to check the authenticity of a handset by querying the IMEI database via SMS or through online. NAID would be integrated to NEIR system for real-time device registration checking and validation purposes. These IMEI from NAID will be updated to NEIR and then to EIRs. NEIR will prepare various list (eg. White list) which will be updated to EIR.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: Please send any supporting information to the address above, including information from candidate (i.e. excerpt from program description, web site print-out, press release, etc.)

A file has been enclosed herewith to consider the award proposal.

File Name: NEIR_Synesis IT.pdf

NOMINEE CONTACT INFORMATION (for award follow up and coordination)

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