



For Immediate Release

DEG®: THE DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL TECH OPS AWARDS FINALISTS



LOS ANGELES (March 30, 2021) | DEG: The Digital Entertainment Group is proud to announce the finalists for the inaugural **Technology & Operations Awards**. This Awards program was created to recognize exceptional technology accomplishments in the digital supply chain achieved by both companies and individuals. The DEG TechOps Awards encourage and promote excellence in all business categories (content, retailer, service) represented within DEG and showcase the importance of the industry's technology & operations teams supporting the digital supply chain.

The three main categories to be awarded are: Technology Leadership, Technology Achievement, and Technology Innovation. In addition, a Lifetime Achievement Award that spans categories and business segments will be presented.

"We are pleased to recognize all the outstanding finalists for the inaugural DEG TechOps Awards," said Amy Jo Smith, President and CEO, DEG. "As key members of the industry's technology and operations teams each is deserving of this honor for the significant roles they play in delivering highest quality premium digital content to entertainment-loving consumers across a variety of platforms. Kudos to all of the finalists!"

The DEG TechOps Awards will be presented virtually on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3 PM (PDT). Click [here](#) to register.

Premiere Digital is the official cocktail sponsor of the DEG TechOps Awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by **Dolby**. The Technology Innovation Award is presented by **Whip Media**.

Technology Leadership Award honors a company, individual, or team that has demonstrated leadership by implementing a technical advancement that had an impact on the digital supply chain within the last two years. Finalists are:

Ellen Goodridge, Sony Pictures Entertainment

Erin Hughes, WarnerMedia

Bill Kotzman, Google Play

Dave Lindsay, Disney Streaming Services

NBC Universal Team: Rosemarie Cordero, Kenesha Luney, Cassandra Moore, Estela Serrano

*Craig Seidel**, Pixelogic

New Media Solutions Team

Kip Welch, MovieLabs

*Nominated for his work at MovieLabs

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Technology Achievement Award honors adoption, leadership and engagement since the inception of DEG's Technology & Operations Committee. Recipients will have significantly contributed to the committee's goal of realizing technological advancements. Finalists are:

Kacy Boccumini, Sony Pictures Entertainment

Kelly Bouchey, Sony Pictures Entertainment

Richard Kroon, EIDR

Justin Parkinson, WarnerMedia

Jason Peña, Google

Josh Perkins, WarnerMedia

Technology Innovation Award honors a team that identified a problem and created a novel solution; the solution is completed or in process. Finalists are:

Amazon Prime Video Team - Nathan Bartel, Jude Fitzmorris, Erol Kalafat, Joe Pavey
(formerly Amazon)

Disney+ Team - Matt Krone, Dave Lindsay, Philip Richards, Alex Vargo,
Madeleine Wright

Google TV Content Operations Team - Austin Norausky, Lead
Iyuno-SDI Group Team

Lionsgate Content Operations Team - Justin Poulsen, Lead

MovieLabs Team– Jim Helman and Raymond Drewry

Premiere Digital Team – Christine Lim, Alex Liu, Carrie Moore, Vijay Nikam, Mangesh Pawar, Samy
Pugazhend, Debbie Tongyoo

New Media Solutions Development Team

Verizon Business Group, Advanced Technology Team - David Pirrocco, Lead

Vubiquity Content Cloud Team – Dan Brown, Andrew Gayter, Reuven Elmalem, Anand Varadan

Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Dolby honors and recognizes an individual or team that has demonstrated consistent results in technology leadership, technology achievement or technology innovation. Finalists are:

Andrea Kalas, Paramount Pictures

*Craig Seidel**, Pixelogic

Christopher Stefanidis (formerly The Walt Disney Company)

*Nominated for his work at MovieLabs

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The DEG advocates and promotes entertainment platforms, products and distribution channels that support the movie, television, music, consumer electronics and IT industries.

DEG membership is comprised of: A+E Networks, AMC Networks, AMC Theatres, Amazon Prime, Amazon Studios, AT&T, Azure, BBC Studios, Bitmax, Blu, Breaker, Cinedigm, Cinelytic, Comcast Cable, DTS, Inc., Deloitte, Deluxe Digital, Disney+, Dolby Laboratories, ESPN+, Fandango, FilmRise, Giant Interactive, GfK Entertainment, Google Play, The Great Courses, IMAX, Intel, Iyuno-SDI Group, LG Electronics USA, Lionsgate, Looper Insights, MGM, Microsoft, Movies Anywhere, NPD Group, OWNZONES, Paramount Home Entertainment, PBS Distribution, Peacock, Pixelogic, Premiere Digital, Redbox, Reelgood, Respeecher, Row8, Samsung Electronics, Screen Engine/ASI, ScreenHits TV, SmithGeiger, Snap Inc., Sonopress, Sony New Media Solutions, Sony Electronics, Starz, Technicolor, TiVo, TV Time, Universal Pictures Home Entertainment, Verizon Business Group, Verizon Digital Media Services, ViacomCBS, Vubiquity, Vuulr, Warner Bros. Home Entertainment, and Whip Media.

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