



The World Class Policing Awards 2019

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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Cracking A Cyber Attack On Sony Sees Bedfordshire Police Win At World Class Policing Awards

A specialist Bedfordshire Police team has won a prestigious World Class Policing Award for the role it played in cracking a cyber-attack on Sony.

The force beat off competition from 54 finalists, drawn from more than 100 outstanding entries from across the globe, to win a trophy at the new event recognising outstanding police work from across the world.

Bedfordshire Police's Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) worked with the National Crime Agency, the FBI and the CPS during the Operation Polarity investigation, sparked when Sony and its PlayStation network suffered outages during the cyber-attack in 2014.

The cybercrime tool unearthed as part of the case was revealed to have over 100,000 users and was responsible for 1.7million denial of service attacks worldwide. The team also discovered the PayPal accounts linked to the offender with an estimated \$400,000 of laundered proceeds.

Operation Polarity was pathfinding, no operations on this level had ever been attempted before and cybercrime investigation was still in its infancy when the attack occurred.

The team had to deal with an enormous amount of seized data equating to 10 TB (around 50 million pages of A4) and ERSOU led on the work to get this data into a format that would meet Crown Prosecution disclosure requirements.

The Operation saw the team rebuild a customer database to identify national and international users of the cybercrime tool, devising a process on how to capture and make data searchable to aid future cybercrime investigations at the same time.

ERSOU's ground-breaking work was so successful that the offender involved pleaded guilty to all charges.

The systems and processes developed have now been adopted and form part of the NCAs intelligence development for national and international policing in how to deal with big data sets concerning cybercrime tools.

Judges commented that this was a "really impressive example of using new technologies to identify the offender - in collaboration with other agencies."



A spokesman for the Judges said: “This nomination scored particularly highly for its approach, creation of new tools and methodology for investigation; establishing a national expert unit; its work with the CPS on disclosure and international collaboration with the FBI. Particularly impressive was the rehabilitative approach towards the offender. Outstanding police work... world class, leading edge stuff.”

The World Class Policing Awards are sponsored by Accenture.

The Awards specifically recognise and celebrate the collaborative nature of policing - whether that is a brilliant investigation, a business change project or a multi-agency partnership - in delivering the most effective and efficient way to protect our communities and keep them safe.

Attendees at the Awards included Chief Police officers from across the Globe as well as winners, their partners and sponsors. They were presented by experienced broadcaster Jeremy Vine.

Notes to Editors:

- Media enquiries should be directed to [Martis Media](#) via natalie@martismedia.co.uk
 - More information about the awards can be found at www.worldclasspolicing.com
 - The hashtag for the event was #WorldClassPolicing
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 - The inaugural World Class Policing Awards took place 14 November, at the Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane, London. Six winners were announced at the ceremony, one of which was named the overall winner. There were also six commendations.
 - The 54 finalists were selected from over 100 entries received from UK and overseas police forces.
 - The World Class Policing Awards are led by a Steering Committee experienced in policing and managing projects in the police sector, as well as expertise in running successful police events: Stephen Kavanagh QPM, former Chief Constable of Essex Police and Chair of the World Class Policing Awards Steering Committee, Paul Leeks, MD of Glasgows - the awards and events specialists who have delivered the Bravery Awards for the Police Federation of England and Wales for the past eight years, Allan Fairley, UK Public Safety MD for Accenture and Chair of techUK's Justice & Emergency Services Committee, Ian Barrett - CoPaCC Director and publishing professional in the police sector with experience developing and delivering the Police Review Gala Awards and Bernard Rix, Publisher of Policing Insight.
 - The awards are supported by the [National Police Chiefs Council \(NPCC\)](#), the [Police Federation of England & Wales \(PFEW\)](#), the [Police Superintendents Association \(PSA\)](#), the [College of Policing \(CoP\)](#), the [Police ICT Company \(PICTCo\)](#) and [Tech UK](#).
 - The Founder Sponsors of the awards are [Accenture](#), [Sopra Steria](#), [Chorus Intelligence](#), [Grant Thornton](#) and [KPMG](#). Dinner is sponsored by [Amazon Web Services](#) and the Drinks Reception by [NICE](#).
 - Policing Insight (policinginsight.com) and Police Oracle (policeoracle.com) are the official Media Partners for the World Class Policing Awards 2019.
- For information about the awards or the nominations process, contact: wcpa@glasgows.co.uk or call: +44 (0) 1772 767782



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