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SMART CITY SPECIAL

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20 Most Promising Smart City Solution Providers - 2016

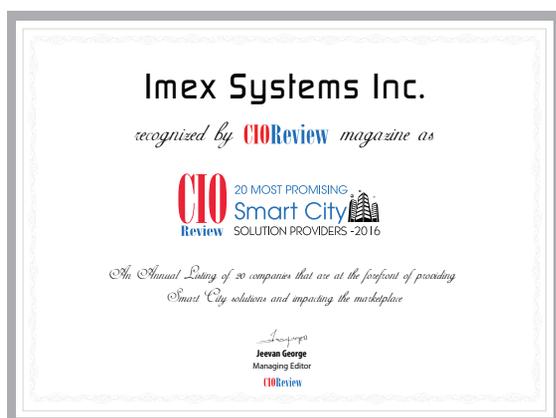
The concept of smart cities will redefine how we live in the cities of the future. It is estimated that by 2050, around 70 percent of the population across the globe is going to live in urban areas. Designing and implementing smart cities will be important to tackle the economic, environmental, financial and technical constraints that will accompany this growing population in urban environments.

Today's smart city solutions—built and implemented by IT solutions providers—are enhancing the entire concept at a micro level. However, it has to be done in a bigger and broader scale to facilitate smart cities with smart infrastructure. IoT and cloud will be key enablers in this. These solutions will help tackle multiple challenges, such as reducing air, water

and noise pollution, energy conservation, operational savings, public safety, appropriate resource management, improved health and enhanced security. The rapid growth of technology will make the dream of fully integrated smart cities real in the near future.

In order to assist CIOs and other stakeholders in identifying the right smart city solutions providers, CIO Review presents “20 Most Promising Smart City Solutions Providers 2016.”

A distinguished panel comprising CEOs, CIOs, VCs, analysts, and the CIO Review editorial board has selected the top Smart City Solution Providers. In our selection process, we looked at the vendor's capability to fulfill the need for cost-effective and flexible solutions that add value to the smart city landscape.



Company:
Imex Systems

Description:
The company specializes in Smart City and Smart Government solutions, Payment systems, and Mobile government

Key Person:
Damodar Arapakota,
CEO

Website:
imexsystems.com

Imex Systems Smart Solutions for Building Smart Cities

Given the expeditious rate of urbanization taking place, it does not come as a surprise that the idea of a smart city is making strides. According to a research conducted by Frost and Sullivan, the smart city market is expected to reach \$1.5 trillion by 2020. The study also states that around 26 global cities and more than 90 sustainable cities are expected to witness major development in the coming years, resulting in the massive consumption of the world's resources. As the growth of 'smart cities' concept increases, so will the need to innovate and provide solutions to foster convergence within the city. However, the progression doesn't come without posing certain challenges for organizations and city authorities. "A measure of effectiveness of smart city initiative is to measure the happiness index of citizens, as some countries have already started doing," says Damodar Arapakota, CEO, Imex Systems. There are many technologies to help a city become a smart city, covering every aspect of life of a citizen. "At Imex we believe the most important aspects are citizen services delivery, traffic and public safety. So our solutions are geared towards these aspects," he adds.

Imex Systems with offices in Toronto, Dubai and Washington DC delivers innovative and cost effective products and solutions in order to help the governments leverage technology in the best possible manner, aligning and integrating people to become efficient and citizen-centric. One such product offered by the company is iGov—a platform that has been specifically designed to reduce

the cost of acquiring and implementing the eGovernment. "iGov is the basic building block of our smart city platform called iCity," explains Arapakota. iCity is a modular system that provides a number of other applications like video surveillance with video analytics, and parking management through the Internet of Things (IoT).

These factors have led numerous governments around the world approach Imex



Damodar Arapakota

“At Imex, we help the CIOs navigate through the confusion surrounding smart cities by conducting a workshop which gives them valuable insights on the topic

Systems which has enabled them to achieve measurable economic impact and improved citizen satisfaction. In many of these instances, the company has deployed iCity technology.

With the smart city concept selling like hot cakes in the present, Arapakota believes that the federal and state gov-

ernments in North America taking up the initiative and help develop smart cities would benefit the cities and its citizens greatly. "Any city that wants to become smart should first be smart in running the city by becoming a 'smart government'," says Arapakota. The Imex solution covers Smart Government, Smart Operations, Smart Customer Service, and Smart Payments to name a few.

Imex has introduced many innovations to the market and have been working on many new innovations as well. The company advocates the use of Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive computing, Augmented Reality, and Biometrics in order to improve service delivery as well as customer service. "Some of our new offerings include use of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence to improve customer service," remarks Arapakota.

Drawing a roadmap on the company's future, Arapakota says "I believe that Imex is on the right path to be well known for its innovation and thought leadership for smart cities". He expects Imex to strengthen its position as the go-to company for any city contemplating on becoming a smart city. The integrated architecture of Imex's smart city platform, iCity will be the key driver in achieving better efficiencies, while reducing costs and improving citizen satisfaction. "We are currently doing pilots in a few cities. We believe that this will be the wave of the future," he concludes. **CR**