

London, UK  
27 May 2011  
For immediate release



## **Speech Technology Forum announces Multimodal Challenge Winner**

**The merging of speech, touch and visual modalities has spawned a whole new breed of multimodal applications to assist in a wide variety of tasks and, at this week's SpeechTEK Europe (London 24 - 26 May), Textpilot from Norwegian company Include AS won the Expert's Prize in the event's new Multimodal Challenge competition.**

Textpilot is an intelligent, multi-sensory software solution that aids with reading, composing and comprehending text. The software features a carefully thought-out design and interaction model to cater for the needs of a diverse group of users, from people with ordinary writing and reading skills, to those with learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, mobility impairments, or users with visual impairments.

SpeechTEK Europe's Multimodal Challenge has been running all year, with entries representing a range of innovative applications, including personal assistants for mobile devices, an electronic entry doorman, and tools for aiding the handicapped. All of the Multimodal Challenge entries can be seen at:

[www.speechtek.com/europe2011/MultiModalChallenge.aspx](http://www.speechtek.com/europe2011/MultiModalChallenge.aspx)

SpeechTEK Europe Programme Chair and member of the Multimodal Challenge judging panel, Jim Larson, commented today,

*"The Multimodal Challenge submissions demonstrated a variety of user input technologies, including keyboard, speech recognition, speaker recognition, face recognition, and special input devices.*

*"Our panel of multimodal experts evaluated each submission using the four criteria of originality, user experience, required user training, and quality. The judges unanimously voted Textpilot, from Include As, as the winner."*

In addition to the Expert's Prize, delegates on site at SpeechTEK Europe were invited to vote for their own favourite application. The winner of the People's Choice award went to Angel Multimodal Application (Angel-MM), an iPhone application that enables users to engage IVR systems in real-time multimodal interactions.

SpeechTEK Europe took place in London this week. Launched last year, the event aims to replicate the success of its sister event in New York by providing a forum that links together research and real-world applications of speech technologies and strategies. Katherine Allen, Business Development Director for SpeechTEK Europe organisers, Information Today, said,

*"We are delighted to have welcomed attendees from 20 countries to this week's event. With a great variety of activities running alongside the main conference - ranging from workshops and networking event, to meetings of industry associations - SpeechTEK Europe is becoming an important annual focus event for the speech technology industry in Europe".*

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## **Editor's Notes**

SpeechTEK Europe 2011 Conference and Expo took place on 24, 25 & 26 May at Copthorne Tara Hotel, London and was attended by delegates, speakers, exhibitors and visitors from 20 countries.

[www.speechtek.com/europe2011](http://www.speechtek.com/europe2011)

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## **About SpeechTEK**

Launched in the US in 1995, the SpeechTEK event series ([www.speechtek.com](http://www.speechtek.com)) is recognised worldwide as the industry's premier event focusing on products, services, applications, solutions, and innovations using speech technologies. The trade show and conference attracts a global network of speech technology providers and enterprise network customers who develop and implement speech solutions. The 2011 US SpeechTEK takes place on 8 – 10 August at the Hilton New York.

## **About Information Today**

Information Today ([www.infotoday.com](http://www.infotoday.com)), producers of SpeechTEK and Speech Technology magazine, is a leading business and technology publisher and conference organiser. In addition to Speech Technology magazine, Information Today publishes *Streaming Media* magazine, CRM magazine, KMWorld magazine, Database Trends and Applications magazine, EventDV magazine, and EContent, as well as a range of resources for the global information community.