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BitDefender® , the first winner from Eastern-Europe

4-6 November, Copenhagen, Denmark: SOFTWIN's technologies proved to be the best antidote against new computer malware. BitDefender® Professional was nominated as the first East-European Winner at The European IST Awards Ceremony, among the best High-Tech products of Europe.

"I would like to congratulate once again the BitDefender® team on the IST award. Personally, I consider that SOFTWIN's success reflects the progress of the entire Romanian high-tech industry", said Professor F. G. Filip, Member of the Romanian Academy, Vice-President. "I was very glad when the EU Commissioner Liikanen publicly acknowledged this as the first time when a company from a candidate country to EU qualified among the Winners of the IST Prize in equal conditions of competition and that this country is Romania. I was deeply touched when the 4000 participants warmly applauded this announcement" concluded Prof. Filip.

With a considerable influence over the informational society, the IST event was attended by more than 4000 people, including officials of the European Commission, the 18 academies - European IST Prize Executive Jury, the Euro-CASE Executive Committee, other participants and media invited.

"The European IST Prize is the most distinguished Prize for innovative Information Society Technologies products", said Alain Mongon, in charge of the European IST Prize for Euro-CASE. "I am very pleased to invite this year's Winners, including for the first time a Romanian company, SOFTWIN, to join the select European IST Prize Winners Club", concluded Mr. Mongon.

Along the previous 8 editions, 20 prizes have been awarded to the EU member countries and 5 other prizes have been granted to the Eastern-European countries, candidates to the EU. Starting with last year, companies from candidate countries went into the competition with equal chances; however there was no Winner from the former communist countries in 2001.

"It is a pleasant surprise for me to discover that we have here among the Winners of the IST Prize 2003, for the first time, a Romanian company", Mr. Erki Liikanen, EU Commissioner for Enterprise & Information Society, admitted on the IST Awards Ceremony's stage. "It is even more surprising as I know that this is just the second year when Eastern-European companies participated with equal chances to a very challenging competition", Mr. Liikanen concluded.

BitDefender® has been emphasized as a European brand, representing the future of the Romanian software industry. "The IST prize granted by the European Commission in 2002, the first ever to be obtained by a Romanian IT&C company, represents an outstanding success not only for SOFTWIN, but also for the entire Romanian software industry. This prestigious prize awarded at the end of a very tough competition demonstrates the potential of our software industry and highlights the technological and innovative abilities of our specialists. In the end, the informational society is just a huge innovative process scaled to cover the entire society that directs everything towards progress", declared Acad. Mihai Draganescu, President of Science and Information Technology Department at the Romanian Academy.

BitDefender® most innovative technologies were demonstrated for the first time in Copenhagen. "In a world where the worms spreading with tremendous speeds are no longer myths, the human reaction is no longer acceptable. BitDefender's data protection proactive technology allows stopping in REAL-TIME any attempt to harm a computer system", said Mr. Florin Talpes, President and Co-founder of SOFTWIN, in his presentation before the Executive Jury.

The European IST Prize is placing the Romanian solution among the best European IT products of this time. 437 innovative companies and organizations from 27 countries competed for this year's

Prize - the highest number of participants since the inception of the Prize scheme in 1995. Among these 437 participants, only 20 received the "Winner" title, "for groundbreaking products that represent the best of European innovation in information society technologies".

The 20 Winners, who were exhibiting in the IST Prize Village during the IST event, were announced on September 20. 17 of these Prizewinners received a € 5,000 and the European IST Prize Winner Certificate at the EISTP Award Ceremony, while the three Grand Prizewinners were awarded the Grand Prize: a € 200,000 and the European IST Prize Trophy.

"It is an honor for me to chair the Executive Jury of the prestigious European IST Prize", said Thierry Breton, Chairman of France Telecom and Chairman of the European IST Prize Executive Jury. "This Prize responds to the need to promote and support the development of a strong European IST sector" concluded Breton.

Organized by Euro-CASE with the support and sponsorship of the European Commission's Information Society Technologies (IST) Research Program, the IST Prize confirms the Winners' entrepreneurship, sustainable innovative capacity and their ability to make a positive impact on society.

BitDefender Professional v. 6.5 now starts at \$44.95, and a free 30-day trial version may be downloaded from <http://www.bitdefender.com/evaluation/evaluation.php>.

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About BitDefender®

BitDefender is the creator of one of the industry's fastest and most effective lines of internationally certified [security software](#). Since its inception in 2001, BitDefender has continued to raise the bar and set new standards in proactive threat prevention. Every day, BitDefender protects tens of millions of home and corporate users across the globe - giving them the peace of mind of knowing that their digital experiences will be secure. BitDefender security solutions are distributed by a global network of value-added distribution and reseller partners in more than 100 countries worldwide. More information about BitDefender and its products are available at the company's [security solutions](#) press room. Additionally, BitDefender's [Malware City](#) provides background and the latest updates on security threats helping users stay informed in the everyday battle against malware.