

## Nominee: Six Degrees Group

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### **Nomination title: Six Degrees Group for Managed Service Provider of the Year**

How long has this organisation been involved in the Data Centre and/or IT services and solutions market?

Six Degrees Group (6DG) is a privately owned converged technology infrastructure provider serving UK mid-market and corporate customers. The Group has a converged services portfolio – including data centre, connectivity, voice and cloud offerings – designed to help companies meet the challenges of a connected, ‘always-on’ world. Since its launch in 2011 6DG has acquired 13 companies and has achieved impressive organic growth. Firmly placed in the mid-market, 6DG has 30,000 square ft of data centre space, 3,000 customers and over 250 employees.

Over the last five years, 6DG has provided the following hosting and cloud services,:

- Infrastructure as a Service
- Platform as a Service
- Software as a Service
- Unified Communications as a Service

6DG also provides hosting services and hybrid packages in the following areas:

- Co-location
- Cloud Managed Services
- Virtual Private Cloud
- Private Cloud
- Hybrid Cloud

Are there any key projects delivered in the last year that demonstrate this candidate's suitability for the award?

6DG works with over 3,000 customers on a range of projects across a variety of sectors. Last year, 6DG was chosen to underpin the website operations of the summer music festival Bestival. The website is mission critical to Bestival's success and 6DG was chosen to deliver a high quality, resilient, secure hosting infrastructure to support the site throughout the lead up to, and duration of the event.

6DG deployed a highly available and scalable website hosting platform, including a fully managed backup and disaster recovery strategy across geographically diverse locations. Bestival's primary IT environment is based on a virtual cloud solution, hosted on 6DG's cloud platform, located within 6DG's privately owned data centre in London. The solution is fully scalable, which allows Bestival to add additional capacity, on a temporary basis, when it anticipates an influx in traffic, for example when line-ups are announced and demand for the website increases.

6DG stresses the importance of data security, maintaining control of its data centres from the entry gates through to the data racks. Year on year, the tailored managed service delivered by 6DG gives Bestival access to a high quality infrastructure, that is cost effective. Bestival also has access to ongoing support that continue to sustain the future growth of the festival.

6DG provides an SLA for the Recovery Point Objective (RPO) and Recovery Time Objective (RTO) of 24 hours and 4 hours respectively. This is seen as integral for the business continuity of Bestival as the site is fundamental to its entire operation.

The impact: experts are now running the Bestival infrastructure – 6DG manage and maintain it, taking away the worry and allowing the site to support peaks and troughs in demand.

What key vendor and industry accreditations does the nominee hold?

6DG is committed to providing customers with a wealth of knowledge and experience backed by valued accreditations. 6DG currently holds the following accreditations:

- PCI DSS

PCI DSS is a set of comprehensive standards for ensuring security of financial payment data. 6DG is on the approved global Visa Merchant register.

- ISO

ISO27001 is an international certification that ensures that 6DG's core platforms (data centres and networks), billing, data management, fulfilment and support meet the standards for information security.

- IL2/IL3

The PGA IL2/IL3 accreditation is an industry benchmark for government security best practice. 6DG's solutions have been assessed on an individual basis to meet specific local authority needs. A fundamental part of the IL2 and IL3 solutions delivered by 6DG is its Tier 4 security data centre facilities, which offer maximum security and award winning technologies.

- The Fire Protection Association

The FPA is the UK's national fire safety organisation working to identify and draw attention to the dangers of fire and the means by which their potential loss is kept to a minimum. 6DG is a member.

What endorsements does that nominee hold?

Bestival

Bruce Hay, Head of Digital, Bestival said: "Through the Bestival website, our festival-goers have access to the latest information wherever they are and no matter how many others are online. 6DG has worked with us to provide a flexible hosting platform for our website that met the brief. Our website is key to our success and 6DG takes this seriously, they understand that total control of our data and disaster recovery capabilities are integral to our IT department. Working with 6DG, we have found a solution that offers us the flexibility to scale

up and down as we need to without compromising on data security or replication capabilities.”

## Foxtons

Leo Lapworth, Web Manager, Foxtons Estate Agents said: “An innovative, interactive website is an important part of what sets Foxtons apart from the rest of the market. For our sellers, landlords, tenants and buyers operating in a hectic market it’s important to be able to manage and find the right properties, as well as having the ability to arrange secure payments online. The team at 6DG understands how important the website is to our business. They have helped us to create a unique hosting platform that can support the website as Foxtons continues to meet the changing needs of the London property market.”

Recent awards highlighting 6DG’s success in the market include:

- Winner of ‘Cloud Project of the Year’ at the SVC awards 2014

6DG underpinned a customers website operations with a highly available hosting platform and fully managed backup and disaster recovery solution that operates across geographically diverse locations.

- Science 50

6DG was recognised as one of the UK’s fastest growing companies in the Science 50 Index. The list of fifty companies, which was compiled by the Royal Society and Silicon Valley Comes to the UK, ranks the best performing businesses in the British science and enterprise sectors.

## Why nominee should win

- Founded in 2011, 6DG is a leader in MSP market delivering value in all areas of the hosting stack and services.

- Accredited by: PCI DSS, ISO, The Fire Protection Association, G-Cloud 5, SVC awards, Science 50, Bestival and Foxtons, 6DG is committed to delivering best practice managed services across a variety of sectors.
- 6DG stresses the importance of data security, maintaining control of its data centres from the entry gates through to the data racks.
- Key projects delivered last year include Bestival, demonstrating the success of 6DG's systems.