

**For Immediate Release**

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**FrontlineSMS is a Finalist for the  
2011 Buckminster Fuller Challenge**

FRONTLINE SMS

NEW YORK, NY – May 11, 2011 – FrontlineSMS, an initiative of the Kiwanja Foundation, has been selected as a Finalist in the [Buckminster Fuller Challenge](#), the prestigious annual design science competition named "Socially-Responsible Design's Highest Award" by Metropolis Magazine. The Challenge awards \$100,000 to support the development and implementation of a whole systems-based solution that has significant potential to solve humanity's most pressing problems.

FrontlineSMS brings the communication revolution to poor and remote regions of the world by harnessing the power and reach of basic mobile phones already in the hands of billions of people. At its core, FrontlineSMS software turns a laptop computer and a mobile phone or modem into a mass messaging platform, empowering users to gather and share information of any kind, in any place. It works without the internet, is easy to implement, simple to operate, and free to download.

According to founder Ken Banks, "FrontlineSMS is focused on reaching the 'last mile.' The \$100,000 prize will provide critical support to develop Version 2 of the software, an overhaul that will improve functionality of the core platform." A plugin tailored to community radio stations and a suite of free online resources for users are already in the works.

After a rigorous vetting process by the Buckminster Fuller Institute's multi-disciplinary review team, which included an in-depth interview, then a review by a distinguished [jury](#), FrontlineSMS was chosen from a pool of hundreds of entries from more than 35 countries to be one of only four Finalists this year. It is featured in BFI's Idea Index and the Buckminster Fuller Challenge Website.

On Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> FrontlineSMS will be presented to jury members and an audience in New York City. On Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> the Winner will be revealed at a conferring ceremony. Both events will take place at The Graduate Center, CUNY. More information is available [here](#)..

The Buckminster Fuller Challenge is the premier global competition recognizing initiatives that take a comprehensive, anticipatory, design approach to radically advance human well being and the health of our planet's ecosystems. The 2011 Finalists are providing visionary, workable solutions to some of the world's most significant challenges including poverty, food supply, health, illiteracy, and ecological preservation. The Challenge is a program of [The Buckminster Fuller Institute](#) which aims to deeply influence the ascendance of a new generation of design-science pioneers who are leading the creation of an abundant and restorative world economy that benefits all humanity.