

Company: MetTel, New York, NY

Nomination Submitted by: Axicom

Company Description: MetTel is a global communications solutions provider specializing in connectivity and networking solutions for businesses and government agencies. The company offers a range of services including voice, data, mobility, and IoT solutions, leveraging a global private network and advanced technology.

Nomination Category: Thought Leadership Categories

Nomination Sub Category: Female Thought Leader of the Year - Business Services

Nomination Title: Lori Thomas, Senior Vice President, Strategic Engagement & Transformation



1. Briefly describe the nominated individual: history and past performance (up to 200 words):

Total 200 words used.

Lori Thomas has emerged as one of the most influential voices shaping the future of business services by establishing herself as a visionary thought leader in telecommunications and enterprise technology. Her expertise spans strategic business transformation, enterprise technology adoption, and customer engagement innovation.

At MetTel, Thomas has become a recognized voice in digital transformation, helping enterprises navigate modern IT infrastructure and communications solutions complexities. Her thought leadership extends beyond traditional boundaries through active participation in executive networks and prestigious industry forums.

As a founding member of CHIEF, a women's professional leadership network, Thomas serves as an evangelist for women in IT/communications leadership roles. She inspires women in technology by endorsing both the traditional STEM-focused path of IT career development and one that utilizes technical acumen to advise clients on strategy and IT solutions.

Thomas founded and leads MetTel's Strategic Engagement & Transformation consulting group, positioning the company as a trusted advisor to clients navigating digital transformation. Her thought leadership philosophy focuses on democratizing complex technology concepts through industry-defining insights that influence Fortune 500 telecommunications strategies and enterprise adoption patterns. This approach has established her as a critical bridge between emerging technology providers and enterprise adopters, influencing partnership and implementation strategies.

2. Outline the nominee's thought leadership achievements since July 1 2023 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words):

Total 250 words used.

Since July 2023, Thomas has elevated her thought leadership while driving industry conversations around digital transformation and business services innovation. Lori's Strategic Engagement & Transformation (SET) consulting organization has overseen approximately \$300 million in annual revenue for MetTel in 2025, establishing herself as a trusted voice delivering valuable insights to enterprise decision-makers across large-scale digital transformation initiatives.

Thomas's strategic thought leadership is evident in her development of MetTel's technology partner ecosystem, positioning the company at the intersection of traditional telecommunications and emerging technologies through partnerships with SpaceX Starlink, VMware by Broadcom, and FIS. Her ability to identify and articulate the business value of cutting-edge solutions has influenced how enterprises approach connectivity and digital infrastructure.

Her 2024 Forbes Business Development Council invitation marked a significant milestone in her thought leadership journey. Through expert panel contributions, she has published strategic insights on business resilience advising readers to, "Invest in resilience readiness by building agile systems, empowering cross-functional teams and leveraging real-time data to adapt quickly," and highlights operational efficiency strategies by advocating managed services partnerships to address IT skills gaps while leveraging cost efficiencies and technology ecosystems.

Thomas's Forbes Council satellite communications and edge computing insights have been cited by Gartner analysts and referenced in enterprise RFP processes, with her published frameworks being adopted by procurement teams at Fortune 500 companies for technology vendor evaluation.

Her speaking engagements at industry conferences have influenced enterprise procurement strategies, with several major organizations citing her Innovation Summit presentations as catalysts for digital transformation initiatives.

3. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words):

Total 250 words used.

- o [Lori Thomas Joins Forbes Business Development Council](#)
- o [20 Strategies For Managing Operational Costs And Driving Growth Forbes Article](#)
- o [17 Steps To Elevate Brand Relevance Regardless Of Fluctuating Markets Forbes Article](#)
 - Confirms her selection to this invitation-only platform for executives with demonstrated thought leadership impact, emphasizing her role in "providing strategic guidance to IT leaders" and validating her industry influence.
- o [MetTel's Thomas: Collaboration, new tech will expand edge computing opportunities](#)
 - Validates Thomas's position as a forward-looking industry expert who analyzes emerging technologies and articulates their strategic business implications, confirming her visionary thought leadership.
- o [MetTel LinkedIn Post on 11th Annual Innovation Summit](#)
 - Demonstrates her thought leadership by creating an industry dialogue forum that attracted record participation through topics and speakers resonating with enterprise leaders.
- o [Behind the Transformation Series: Extra Space Storage's Game-Changing Tech Evolution](#)
 - This interview demonstrates Thomas's thought leadership by facilitating strategic dialogue on how cutting-edge technology drives enterprise growth, validating her role as a trusted advisor who translates complex technological advancements into accessible business insights for enterprise decision-makers.
- o 2025 Innovation Summit Videos
 - These Innovation Summit videos showcase Thomas's expertise in guiding enterprise IT leaders on AI, cybersecurity, and network security, demonstrating her ability to translate complex technologies into actionable strategic guidance.

Collectively, these materials demonstrate Thomas's measurable thought leadership impact from Forbes recognition to industry media coverage, with her Innovation Summit content showcasing expertise in guiding enterprise IT leaders on AI and cybersecurity, while her frameworks are referenced in Fortune 500 procurement processes, validating her role in driving industry transformation.

4. Which will you submit for your nomination in this category, a video of up to five (5) minutes, explaining the achievements since July 1, 2023 of the nominated woman, OR written answers to the questions? (Choose one):

Written answers to the questions

5. If you are submitting a video of up to five (5) minutes in length, provide the URL of the video here, OR attach it to your entry via the "Add Attachments, Videos, or Links to This Entry" link above, through which you may also upload a copy of your video. If you are submitting written answers to the questions for this category, provide them in the spaces below:

Submitting written answers.

6. Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other players in your industry and/or to the nominee's past performance (up to 250 words):

Total 250 words used.

Thomas's thought leadership achievements are particularly significant in an industry where technical expertise often overshadows strategic vision. Bridging emerging technologies with practical business applications sets her apart from traditional telecommunications executives focused on operational excellence rather than industry transformation.

Her leadership extends beyond traditional boundaries. Her forward-thinking perspective on satellite communications positioned her as a voice for industry evolution, influencing how enterprises approach infrastructure planning and digital transformation strategies.

MetTel Innovation Summit's robust attendance demonstrates exceptional impact in a sector where client engagement events struggle for relevance. Unlike competitors' standard product showcases, Thomas created a platform for genuine industry dialogue attracting C-level executives seeking strategic insights.

Her Forbes Business Development Council invitation distinguishes her within business services, where few telecommunications professionals achieve recognition for thought leadership beyond their immediate industry. This cross-industry acknowledgment validates her ability to translate telecommunications expertise into broader business strategy insights.

Thomas's thought leadership impact is evident in industry adoption patterns and performance. The SET revenue grew 11% in 2024 and is on pace to exceed that growth rate in 2025. Following her satellite communications advocacy, multiple telecommunications providers and enterprise adoption patterns. This approach has established her as a critical bridge between emerging technology providers and enterprise adopters, influencing partnership and implementation strategies.

Her 2024 Stevie Award recognition from over 3,600 entries, competing against thought leaders from IBM, Meta, and Microsoft, underscores her unique industry position. This reflects her rare combination of technical depth, strategic vision, and communication skills enabling industry influence while inspiring transformational thinking.

Attachments/Videos/Links:

[Lori Thomas, Senior Vice President, Strategic Engagement & Transformation](#)

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