



Champagne Toast 19 April 2010

View Champagne Toast Videos

[Champagne Toast](#)

Volcanoes are Just a Minor Inconvenience With Cisco TelePresence Cisco and TANDBERG Employees Celebrate the Acquisition with a Morning Champagne Toast

April 19, 2010, San Jose—Thanks to Cisco TelePresence, last week's eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano—and the resulting grounding of 68,000 flights in and out of Europe—was just a minor inconvenience to Cisco's Marthin DeBeer and TANDBERG's Fredrik Halvorsen. DeBeer was planning to join Halvorsen and other company officials at TANDBERG headquarters in Oslo, Norway, to celebrate the joining of the two companies.

"Most of us were supposed to be in very different places today," said Halvorsen. The former TANDBERG CEO noted how the volcanic eruption underscores the need for widespread availability of robust communication tools such as telepresence. "We simply took this in our stride," DeBeer added, as he and co-host Rob Lloyd shared the virtual stage with Halvorsen and others across the globe via Cisco TelePresence linkup. Referring to the thousands of cancelled flights in the wake of the volcanic eruption, DeBeer pointed out the business impact of travel restrictions throughout Europe: "Just think about the productivity lost by all of the companies involved ... We're very fortunate in that we have this technology and we could adjust seamlessly."

Leading Cisco employees in a champagne toast, Halvorsen and DeBeer themselves were in high spirits. "On my first day as a Cisco employee, I am confident this will be the first day of a long and successful journey as we build the industry leader in collaboration," stated Halvorsen.

