

OpenChime Launches Nationwide Local Service Search Tool



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OpenChime (www.openchime.com), an online service that matches consumers seeking local services with targeted offers, launched nationwide and in London, England on January 19, 2011.

"Whether you're searching for a maid, a handyman, or even a sommelier, drop the phone - OpenChime is taking everything online, delivering customized bids from local businesses, along with contact details and quality ratings," said OpenChime co-founder Erdem Kiciman. "You can get a price on almost anything."

The free online tool prompts users to enter three details: Location for the service request, what type of provider is needed, and a short description with any other relevant information. From there, OpenChime takes over, responding to the request via email within a matter of minutes - or longer, depending on the uniqueness of the request - with 4-6 price quotes from local businesses, along with user ratings from across the web. Settling on a vendor is then a transparent and straightforward process for the consumer, requiring just a single click or phone call.

"We've helped thousands of people navigate the process of finding a local service provider they can trust - now we're going to help everyone else," Kiciman said. "Unlike Craigslist, businesses can respond only by invitation so you know they're legitimate. We screen the responses and deliver the best results in one email."

The nationwide launch follows a successful beta pilot test where more than 10,000 service requests were processed for nearly 4,000 suppliers.

For more information, visit www.openchime.com.

About OpenChime

OpenChime (www.openchime.com) is a free, online tool for consumers that streamlines the process of finding local contractors and service providers. Founded in 2010 by MIT grads Erdem Kiciman and Kale McNaney and based in Chicago, the service is available in the 50 United States and in London, England.

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