

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH SATELLITE AND WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY



ROOF-MOUNTED SATELLITE BROADBAND ENABLES STREAMING OF LIVE VIDEO TO GOLD COMMAND.

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GWENT POLICE SWING INTO ACTION AT THE RYDER CUP

THE RYDER CUP IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP 10 SPORTING EVENTS FOLLOWED BY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

The latest command, communications and wireless video technologies, supplied by Excelerate Technology, were used by Gwent Police on their Silver and Bronze Incident Command Vehicles (ICV) at this year's Ryder Cup, held at the Celtic Manor Resort, Newport.

Played once every two years, and never before in Wales, the first week of October 2010 saw the cream of the golf world come to Newport to compete in the 38th Ryder Cup. Contested between teams of 12 players from Europe and the United States, the Twenty Ten course at the Celtic Manor Resort played host to what many observers felt was one of the best series of matches yet.

Europe's win – by 14.5 points to USA's 13.5 points – means that they have won eight of the last 13 competitions with the 1989 competition tied (with Europe retaining the Cup). Ranked as one of the top 10 global sporting events with a television audience

THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE FOCUSED ON THE RYDER CUP



in excess of one billion people, this year's competition extended into a fourth day due to some extreme weather conditions during the first day's play.

Gwent Police adopt central security role

Policing of the event was carried out by Gwent Police, with the costs being met by Ryder Cup Limited and the European Tour. Thanks to the use of sophisticated communications and surveillance technology supplied by Excelerate, a total of only 150 officers were able to maintain security for this high-profile event.

Central to the management of the security at this high-profile event were the two Gwent Police Incident Command Units, one operating as Silver Command and the other

as Bronze, crucially providing a Common Operational Picture to Gold Command. Both vehicles were supplied in late 2009 by Excelerate Technology Ltd, the Cardiff-based satellite broadband communications and command systems integration company.

The company has experienced rapid growth over the past few years, as it extends its technological support to a wide range of emergency services customers and other clients.

In addition to the two Incident Command Units, a number of police officers were assigned mountain bikes to get around the course quickly. They were also equipped with body-worn wireless cameras and radios, enabling them to feed back live imagery of any incident.

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Policing in the face of heightened security threats

Gwent Police's responsibilities included contingency planning for such events as a major road traffic accident on the M4 and dealing with the possibility of a terrorist attack. The threat from terrorism was a major consideration, especially in the light of a series of advance warnings.

The security threat level for the UK, published by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC), had previously been set at 'Substantial' in January 2010 but was then upgraded to 'Severe', meaning that an attack in the UK was highly likely. In addition, shortly before the event, on 24th September, MI5 upgraded the threat level to the UK from hard-line Irish Republican dissidents from 'Moderate' to 'Substantial'.

As well as policing more than 45,000 spectators on the actual course each day, Gwent Police supported the organisers in their role of providing security for the golfers and VIP guests, including Prince Charles and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. Contingency plans were also made to manage the security requirements for potential visits by former US Presidents, Bill Clinton, George Bush Snr and George W Bush.

Highlighting the need for rapid communications

The Ryder Cup is a major sporting event where security issues are made even more complex due to the need to protect such high-profile visitors. With the eyes of the world watching Newport, this was an exercise which acted as an excellent pre-cursor to the 2012 London Olympics.

As Superintendent Nigel Russell of Gwent Police commented,

"When we were developing the plans for the Ryder Cup, it was clear that there was an opportunity to use technology to give the commanders as much information as we could before they took operational decisions. This was the first major event where we deployed our command vehicle and it really paid off. The Bronze commander was able to brief his staff and keep



“WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT GWENT POLICE CHOSE EXCELERATE FOR THEIR ICU REQUIREMENTS AND THAT THESE VEHICLES HAVE PLAYED SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE AT THIS PRESTIGIOUS EVENT.

DAVID SAVAGE
CEO AND FOUNDER OF EXCELERATE TECHNOLOGY

OVER 275,000 SPECTATORS INCLUDING HIGH-PROFILE VIPS ATTENDED THE RYDER CUP AMID HEIGHTENED SECURITY THREAT LEVELS

updated on everything that was going on from the middle of a golf course.

"All our systems, plus those of the HOSDB, meant everyone had all the information they needed. Deploying officers on mountain bikes with live streaming of images from the body-worn cameras meant we could see and hear what was going on wherever they were on the course. Without this it likely we would have needed additional police officers to attend incidents or to be available on the course."

Maintaining contact between Silver and Bronze ICUs

The two Incident Command Units used at this event were designed to provide tactical command solutions that would ensure preparedness for all civil contingencies throughout Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen in southeast Wales, but they are ideally suited for such large-scale events as the Ebbw Vale Eisteddfod in August and The Ryder Cup.

"We worked with Excelerate Technology to develop a bespoke solution that has met all our tactical, strategic and technological requirements within available budgets," commented Simon Leonard of Gwent Police's Emergency Planning Department. **"The new mobile ICU will enable us to better serve our local community and improve public confidence in our work."**

EXCELERATE'S KEY SOLUTIONS ENABLE GWENT POLICE TO DEVELOP NEW WAYS OF ENSURING EVENT SECURITY.

Developed by Excelerate Technology, in partnership with a team from Gwent Police's Emergency Planning Department, the newest Incident Command Unit has a roof-mounted transportable satellite solution that enables real-time voice, data and video information to be shared with Gold Command to provide a Common Operational Picture of any incident or event.

David Savage, CEO of Excelerate Technology, commented,

"We are delighted that Gwent Police chose Excelerate for their ICU requirements and that these vehicles have played such an important role at this prestigious event.

"Excelerate Technology is the UK market leader in the supply and integration of command and communications systems delivering data, video, voice and Internet via satellite broadband. These systems help our blue light services improve the speed and effectiveness of their response to emergencies of all kinds."

The Incident Command Unit provides a practical and spacious environment for

operational personnel working inside the vehicle, where three workstations have been installed with ruggedised screens on which a wide range of specialised command support applications can be run. These include risk and asset management, database information and email, instant messaging and video-conferencing as well as a back-up independent GSM network.

Live video images

Two large flat screen monitors have also been installed inside the ICU to enable Silver Command staff to view television news pictures and live video images transmitted into the vehicle from the external, mast-mounted optical and dual thermal cameras or body-worn cameras.

An additional 'heli-tele' down-link enables aerial images to be received in real-time from helicopters flying over the incident ground. All images can be streamed via the satellite links to a secure server where they can be accessed by Gold Command.

The ICU also features a wall-mounted whiteboard and an internal CCTV camera with full audio recording for evidential and review purposes. Outside, a large touch screen display has been installed under an awning for outdoor multi-agency briefing sessions.

Mobile body-worn cameras

With body-worn cameras and radios carried by police officers riding mountain bikes, together with video surveillance of specific locations, Excelerate's key solutions enabled Gwent Police to develop new ways of policing an event, preparing for any eventuality, and obtaining the most cost-effective deployment of their officers.

Thanks to Excelerate Technology, and particularly the ability of its communication systems to relay all forms of data via satellite broadband, essential information can now be accessed in real time by senior officers for informed decision-making.

HIGH-SPEED DATA CAPTURE

SURREY POLICE ACHIEVE GREATER OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND LOWER COSTS WITH THEIR NEW SATELLITE-BASED BROADBAND ANPR SOLUTION.

Surrey Police recognise that Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) enhances its ability to identify and detect offenders, reduce crime and improve public confidence.

ANPR is a key element of Operation Shield, which tackles travelling criminals and creates a 'Ring of Steel' around Surrey's borders. Such measures help to protect Surrey's investment in Neighbourhood Policing, enabling them to maintain low crime levels and earn their reputation as one of the safest counties in the country.

The installation of satellite broadband technology has enabled ANPR teams to receive live-time intelligence and has reduced costs to Surrey Police significantly, together with improved connection to the Back Office System. The success of this recently introduced functionality is a clear demonstration of the key benefits of satellite technology, namely reliability, cost effectiveness and performance.

ANPR is an important investigation tool for the identification of offenders, the detection of crime, and for post-incident investigation. ANPR-equipped vehicles form a key element in this process. However, the vehicles have previously been hampered by having to download current data and intelligence at base at the start of a shift and then having no capability to update data remotely while on operational duty.

This meant, for example, that details of vehicles stolen during a tour of duty were not passed to the ANPR teams, thereby reducing their ability to act quickly and locate those vehicles.

Satellite broadband enables live data updates

The installation of satellite broadband supplied by Excelerate Technology delivers reliability of access and high data transfer rates at all times of the day. Moreover, the new satellite-based system is able to do so at a lower cost than the alternatives previously available to the Police.

As soon as details of vehicles of interest to the police – such as those involved in



CRIMINALS FACE QUICKER AND CLOSER SURVEILLANCE THANKS TO SATELLITE-BASED ANPR DATA RELAY.

crime or which are stolen – are entered onto the Police National Computer, they are passed via satellite to the ANPR teams, enabling them to react quickly to the most recent intelligence.

According to David Savage, CEO of Excelerate Technology: **"Our understanding of the changing operational needs of police forces has been a key reason why Excelerate Technology has become the supplier of choice for satellite and wireless-based voice, data, and video solutions for a wide range of command and civil contingency applications."**

"Adding satellite capability to ANPR systems from suppliers with the required accreditations and experience to meet the exacting NAAS standards will make a significant contribution towards cutting crime and improving operational efficiency."

Each user can have satellite broadband bandwidth tailored specifically to their operational and budgetary requirements. Excelerate Technology is able to negotiate and deliver highly competitive rates to its customers, based on its in-depth knowledge and buying power in the satellite market.

With monthly airtime contracts available from as little as £280 per month for unlimited access, significant savings can be achieved on existing mobile contracts, which are costing some forces up to £1,500 per month based on the volume of data transmitted.

Field test proves the value of satellite system

To test whether satellite broadband was really as effective and as economical as claimed, Surrey Police trialled Excelerate's satellite solution in a number of areas. As a direct result, the force is now using its satellite solution supplied by Excelerate Technology for ANPR, and is interested in exploring future applications.

Superintendent Chris Moon, Operations Superintendent for Surrey Police, said:

"The use of satellite technology has enabled Surrey Police to respond more quickly to fast-time intelligence and is helping us protect the people of Surrey as a key element of Operation Shield. It is helping improve performance, while also reducing costs, and is making ANPR an even more powerful weapon against travelling criminals."

The adoption of satellite technology enables the force to deliver high quality images in real time to Back Office Systems and the Police National Computer. It also enables the Force to comply with NAAS standards as laid down by ACPO. Satellite technology is already used by police forces to support command and control systems on mobile incident command units. Satellite broadband's benefits are of increasing relevance as forces around the country upgrade their crime-fighting technologies, as well as their counter-terror capabilities, and plan essential support for the 2012 London Olympics.

OFFICERS WITH BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND RADIOS POLICE THE COURSE ON MOUNTAIN BIKES



THE SATELLITE BROADBAND SOLUTION SUPPLIED BY EXCELERATE TECHNOLOGY FOR SURREY POLICE'S ANPR VEHICLES DELIVERS RELIABILITY OF ACCESS AND LOW-COST/HIGH-DATA-TRANSFER RATES AT ALL TIMES OF THE DAY.



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THE VERY PRESENCE OF THE CAMERAS DETERS WOULD-BE OFFENDERS. ITS PORTABILITY AND FAST DEPLOYMENT MAKE SHERPA AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE CRIMINAL DETECTION AND DETERRENT TOOLBOX.

* MICK RODDEN
 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

SHERPA HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY NORTON INTEGRATED SYSTEMS AS THE WORLD'S FIRST AND ONLY CLIMBING CAMERA. THE SHERPA DELIVERY UNIT PROVIDES A UNIQUE METHOD TO DEPLOY A WIDE RANGE OF MONITORING AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

Any suitable pole or lamp-post can now be used to mount cameras and other devices at scenes where close observation, monitoring and data relay are essential requirements.

For example, in addition to cameras, the Sherpa delivery platform can be used to mount aerials for TETRA or GSM, as well as Wi-Fi access points and 3G routers to extend communication networks.

How Sherpa works to enhance security

Compact and easily portable, Sherpa's rapidly-deployable surveillance and data relay equipment can be transported in the back of a small van. Once on site, the whole process of deployment takes one or two people less than five minutes and requires no specialist tools.

The Sherpa system uses a motorised delivery unit operated by a hand-held remote control to raise a wireless platform up any suitably located pole. Having reached the desired height, the platform automatically attaches itself to the lamp-post and the delivery unit returns to the ground to be stored or used again elsewhere.

The Sherpa camera platform is then powered by rechargeable batteries. Video can be recorded either locally or remotely while all forms of data can be transmitted to a pelican PC or relayed directly to a control room or command centre, including mobile incident command units.

Delivering flexible and economic solutions

In these days of cost-cutting and civil liberty considerations, Sherpa delivers a system that recognises such issues with its flexibility and rapid deployment capability. Available for individual purchase, Sherpa can be shared by co-operational agencies to be used wherever and whenever operations demand.

The ability to place surveillance and data relay technology precisely where you need it, makes the Sherpa rapid deployable system ideal for a wide variety of applications.

From monitoring anti-social behaviour to

regulating traffic through speed cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition – and from crowd surveillance to preventing arson attacks, Sherpa plays many vital roles to deliver greater security and help ensure successful incident management.

Sherpa puts you precisely where you need to be

Sherpa Systems allow you to put communications devices exactly where you need them, enabling you to get to the heart of the action quickly and easily.

Sherpa technology has proved its worth across the world and is established in the UK, North America, Australia and South Africa, where Sherpa was used for crowd safety monitoring at the 2010 World Cup.

Sherpa: tried and tested technology – component parts

Delivery Unit

The Sherpa Delivery Unit is battery-powered with a hand-held controller capable of deploying the Operating Platform up any suitable pole with a diameter between 75mm and 150mm. Units are available for cylindrical, conical, hexagonal and tapered octagonal pole profiles.

Electronics Unit

The Electronics Unit contains a powerful rechargeable battery as well as the technology to enable rapid and secure data transfer.

Operating Platform

The Sherpa Operating Platform can contain a compact and robust PTZ (Pan, Tilt, Zoom) camera housing for a wide variety of CCTV cameras.

Hand-held Controller

The Sherpa Hand-held Controller uses a 433MHz radio packet controller for communications with the system. The data packet structure has been custom written for Sherpa. The hand-held controllers are coded to individual customers.

Control Case

This allows full PTZ control of a camera head together with video feedback via LCD monitors. Other camera monitoring and control methods include laptop and PDA.

Wi-Fi Access Points and 3G Routers

Sherpa technology can be employed to mount Wi-Fi access points to create short distance hot-spots for secure communication, while the deployment of 3G routers enables the rapid relay of all types of data anywhere in the world.

Private GSM and TETRA Networks

Sherpa can be used to mount aerials to create an extended network for private mobile phone systems and secure radio communications.

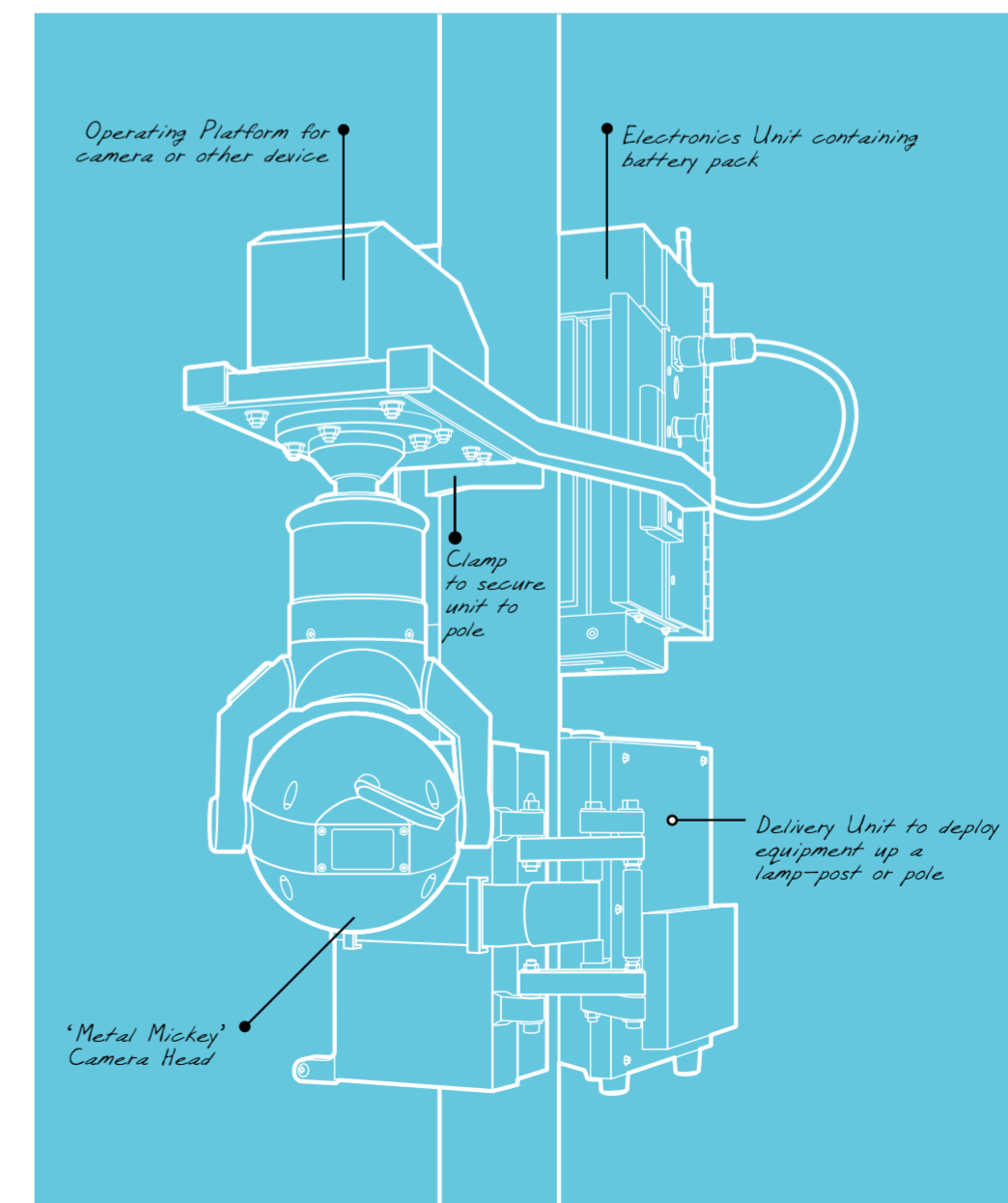
COFDM Transmission

Sherpa uses COFDM for data transmission to overcome line of sight issues and enable personnel to transmit high quality data in real time, even within buildings and underground tunnels.

For further information and a live demonstration, contact Norton Integrated Systems on 0845 862 0529

Sherpa Systems are manufactured by Norton Integrated Systems Ltd, a subsidiary of Exceletrate Technology Ltd. ■

THE SHERPA DEPLOYMENT SYSTEM CAN BE USED FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF SURVEILLANCE AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES





INTUITIVE VISUAL DISPLAYS PROVIDE CLEAR CONTROL OF ALL SYSTEMS

NEW DIGITAL DASHBOARD GIVES YOU VITAL DATA AT A GLANCE

AN INNOVATIVE DIGITAL DASHBOARD MANAGEMENT INTERFACE (DDMI) IS AT THE HEART OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.

A new digital dashboard display has been designed by Excelebrate Technology's R&D department specifically for the emergency services market to provide a clear, intuitive interface linked to the wide variety of command and support technologies to be found on the latest Command and Control vehicles.

Now, you have the ability to monitor at a glance all aspects of your emergency command. For example, the status page provides a user-friendly feature that shows the functionality of every technological component on board the command unit as well as in the field, including wireless mesh radio, laptops, wireless nodes, etc.

The systems monitored by the DDMI include the vehicle's power and wireless MESH nodes, video display screens and battery levels, mains voltage, satellite system status, satellite availability, mapping and planning, call connecting, audio replay, back-up video, audio and weather data.

The DDMI provides easy-to-view status information and clear operational controls. For example, a simple screen selector gives operators the ability to view and control all the screen functions on board the unit and change what appears on them to suit specific incident requirements.

Meanwhile, the PBX facility included within the interface allows different types of radios and mobile phones to be patched together and linked into conference calls, thereby enhancing emergency services interoperability.

DDMI delivers clear communication and greater control

With the increasing complexity of modern command and communications technologies, which often have to be used in tough environments, this elegantly designed digital interface ensures ease of operation and enhanced systems resilience, whatever the circumstances.

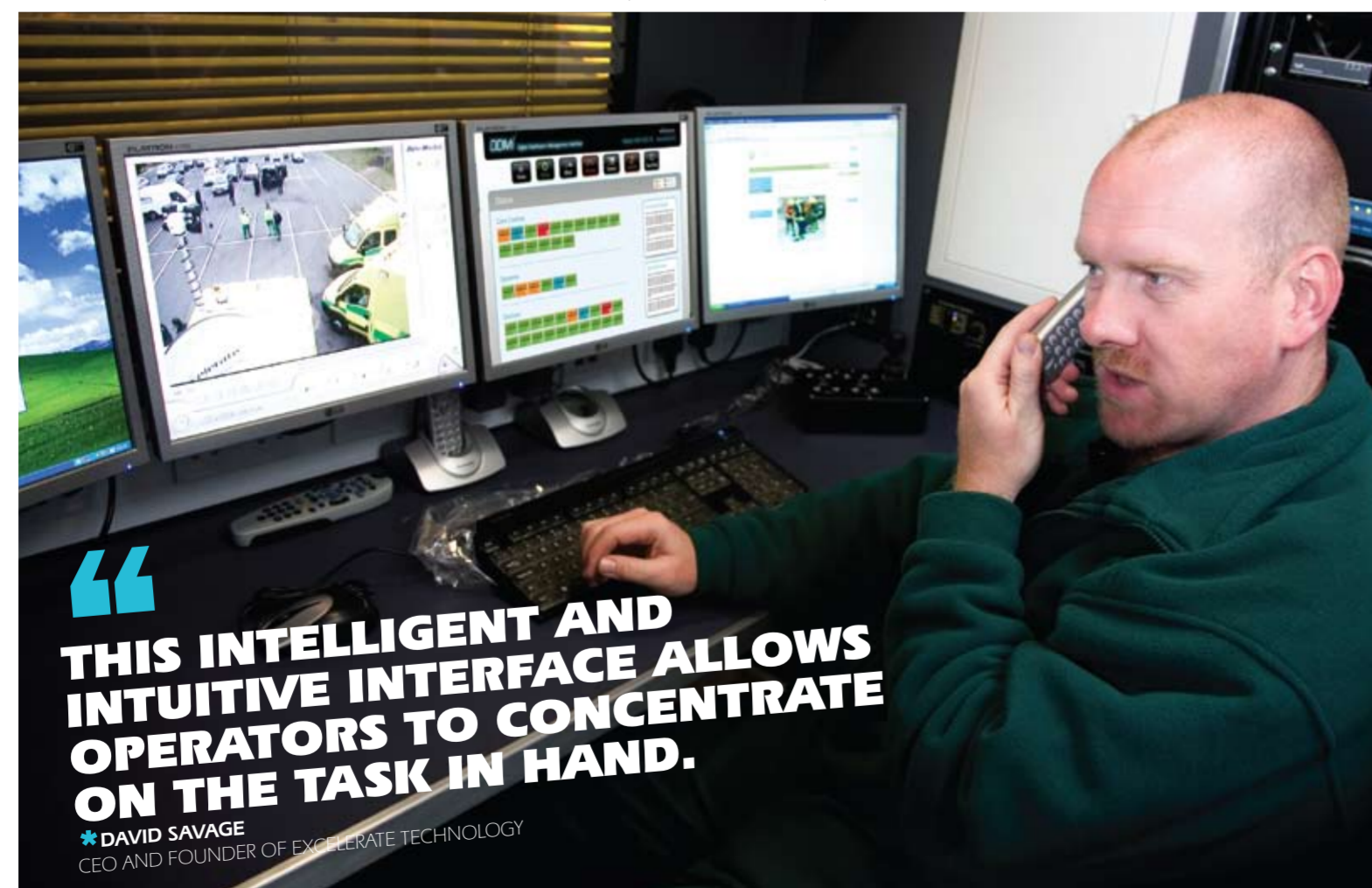
The DDMI can be accessed within a command unit and also reviewed remotely from authorised locations. This includes Excelebrate's own HQ, where skilled personnel can assist with technical support and remote diagnosis to save valuable time and money.

Monitor the situation instantly with intuitive digital displays

Quick response is critical in any major incident and such immediate technical access allows issues to be resolved without the need to wait for a support unit to arrive at the scene.

With such clear vision and enhanced control, the DDMI gives you greater power to stay in command of every situation. ■

DDMI ENSURES THAT YOU HAVE ALL THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS (PHOTO COURTESY OF HART)



THIS INTELLIGENT AND INTUITIVE INTERFACE ALLOWS OPERATORS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK IN HAND.

DAVID SAVAGE
CEO AND FOUNDER OF EXCELERATE TECHNOLOGY



THESE NEW VITO DISPLAY VEHICLES ARE CARRYING EXCELERATE TECHNOLOGY TO OUR CUSTOMERS

MERCEDES VITO Incident Command Vehicles

Excelebrate Technology has recently launched their innovative customer support and demonstration units in the shape of these stylish Mercedes Vito vans.

The rapidly deployable Vito's incorporate the entire range of Excelebrate's comprehensive command and control technologies, including satellite broadband, private GSM, mapping, and command & control software.

These demonstration vehicles also display multiple screen monitoring and the company's newly developed DDMI: the Digital Dashboard Management Interface, which has been specifically designed to give the emergency services clear and intuitive control over such advanced technologies.

The Vito units are available to provide practical and mobile demonstrations of Excelebrate's cost-effective technological solutions that enable emergency responders to access, monitor and manage all data, video and voice applications in real time and remotely.

As well as giving our UK customers support at exercises and events, these vehicles have been developed and built to support emergency services at major incidents, where additional rapid response may well be required.

To see the advantages of working with Excelebrate Technology's fully integrated, and standalone, communications solutions, please call 0845 65 85 747 for a demonstration. ■



STATE-OF-THE-ART COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ON DISPLAY



WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SELECT ENHANCED COMMAND AND CONTROL SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

Excelebrate and Gaist join forces to deliver secure communications solutions for West Yorkshire FRS.

Central to the successful management of any incident is the need to ensure that all commanders share the same Common Operational Picture of what is happening on the ground.

Gold, Silver and Bronze commanders are able to make better-informed decisions if they all have access to the same critical information – information that is not only accurate, but is also current and relevant to the situation in hand.

Excelebrate Technology has joined forces with Gaist to launch an innovative command and control management software solution on an exclusive basis into the emergency services market.



Unlocking the value of information

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, who already operate a state-of-the-art Command and Control unit provided by Excelebrate has recently placed an order and will be the first UK Emergency Service organisation to implement this innovative command and control software.

This purchase will enable them to enhance their overall communications, improve planning procedures and help them in the effective management of incidents.

The Command and Control software offers many benefits to emergency services, including the fact that it is highly portable, adaptable, cost-effective and designed for rapid deployment anywhere in the world. It is equally suited for single and multi-agency use.

The system benefits from the inclusion of Bing GIS mapping and provides complete resilience as the data is held securely on the Bing server. It can also be integrated with SharePoint and has been designed to be easy and intuitive to use.

CEO of Excelebrate Technology, David Savage, commented:

"I am delighted to announce this exclusive relationship with Gaist, which means that we can offer our customers the most innovative incident command solutions in their vehicles."

"I am particularly pleased that our long-term partners at West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have decided to lead the way in the deployment of the software. I am sure that many other Services will make a similar decision, once they see the benefits this fantastic new technology."

A key feature of the new system is the ability to use it for day-to-day tasks such as risk management, asset management, home fire safety inspections, etc, which ensures the system is highly cost-effective as its use is not limited solely to the management of major incidents.

Other benefits include:

- Shared access to Major Emergency Plans
- Links Incident Command Units to all stations
- Links ICU to other agencies
- Live public information broadcasting

Excelebrate's mobile broadband and satellite systems, which are integrated into customers' ICUs, provide even greater resilience, as the communications operate in a completely stand-alone, independent way and are not reliant on GSM networks, Tetra, Mesh or even the internet.

This technical resilience delivers communications peace of mind and enables commanders to focus solely on the incident. ■

WILTSHIRE WELCOMES NEW INCIDENT COMMAND VEHICLE

SPECIAL REPORT – FROM WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE ON THE PURCHASE OF THEIR NEW VEHICLE, SEPTEMBER 2010.

The £300,000 vehicle, which operates from Devizes fire station in the centre of the county, is available to respond to any incident within Wiltshire where stand-alone incident command facilities are needed.

The procurement of this new vehicle, which has taken over from an older unit that was overdue for replacement, is the result of a three year project to identify the best way of meeting operational needs.

A bid by Yate-based coachbuilders WH Bence, working in partnership with Cardiff technology company Excelebrate, to supply 45 specialist vehicles for the ambulance service's Hazardous Area Response Teams (HART) became the model for the Wiltshire ICV.

The ICV was purchased through a framework agreement established by NHS PASA, the current purchasing and supply agency for the health service. The agreement makes it easier for police, fire and ambulance services – as well as local authorities throughout the UK – to buy products and solutions without the delays, costs and administration associated with the requirement of going to tender independently.

The HART programme is designed to support paramedics operating inside the 'hot zone' inner cordon of major incidents,

something the ambulance service was not previously equipped to do. As such, the project required advanced command and communications technologies to support responders in high-risk situations.

Taking their lead from the HART contract, Excelebrate and WH Bence worked with a project team from Wiltshire FRS to ensure that the new ICV provides Incident Commanders with resilient communications and full technical support.

Group Manager Ian Jeary, who led the project team, explained:

"The main issue we faced was the amount of technology that is now available, and how quickly it develops. We carried out thorough investigations – the concept that Excelebrate and WH Bence were providing for HART met our requirements, so we used this platform to suit our specific needs."

New 'top-spec' vehicle

The vehicle's main advance is satellite communications, which allow the transfer of voice, video and data. On board Wi-Fi capability allows the vehicle to link up with the Service's other incident command unit, as well as enabling the use of handheld devices on the incident ground.

The ICV is equipped with five remotely operated CCTV COFDM cameras, which

feed footage directly into the vehicle and can be viewed split screen. The system can also view the Police helicopter's CCTV camera via an integrated downlink.

The dual thermal imaging camera can be operated from the ICV or independently from its control case, and can be remotely mounted on an aerial platform cage.

This equipment combines a high resolution optical zoom camera with a sensitive thermal imaging camera. Human presence can be identified at over 450 metres and high quality, secure and interference-free images can be delivered at distances of up to two kilometres.

Footage from all of the cameras can be streamed onto a secure website so that officers remote from the incident can be kept fully up-to-date. This will be particularly valuable in large scale incidents where Gold Command has been established.

Inside the unit is a 42" plasma screen with Smartboard overlay, and there is access to the Strategic Emergency Preparedness System (STEPS) which allows the creation of detailed plans, overlaid onto maps and aerial photos, to be created and shared.

An external 42" briefing screen – which is LCD touch screen and facing sunlight readable – can show incident plans, hazard information, specialist documents and other data that the Incident Commander needs to share with personnel and partners.

Video and voice recording is located in both the external briefing area and inside the vehicle. These recordings can act as a valuable resource in providing real time case histories for Incident Command training.

Inside the vehicle, firefighters who have been trained in incident support can call up risk assessments, site specific risk information, safety guidance and even meteorological information. The ICV is crewed by three staff and is mobilised to incidents of four pumps and over.

Satellite communications

The satellite network is managed in real-time from Excelebrate's Cardiff-based headquarters, ensuring that sufficient bandwidth is available at all times.

RapidNet private GSM can be generated by the command vehicle to maintain communications with incident personnel, without requiring service from the main network providers.

This ensures full telecoms capabilities in situations where either none exist (a common problem in some rural parts of Wiltshire) or they are unavailable – and also eliminates risking a repetition of the communications problems experienced following the 7/7 bombings in London.

Group Manager, Ian Jeary commented:

"In light of major incidents, such as Buncefield and the Gloucestershire floods, there was a very real need to ensure that Incident Commanders had up-to-date safety critical information available so they could make accurate and effective decisions. These decisions not only affect firefighter safety, but also impact on the wider community and the environment, and it is vital that we get them right first time, every time.

"To ensure that our Service could meet the challenge of future incidents, whether as a result of climate change, global terrorism or industrial events, we needed to invest in a resilient and robust incident command capability that was fit for purpose for the 21st century, and this vehicle meets that need." ■

DAVID ENNIS FROM EXCELERATE TECHNOLOGY HANDS OVER THE NEW INCIDENT COMMAND VEHICLE TO CHIEF FIRE OFFICER ANDY GOVES, WATCHED BY (L-R) GM IAN JEARY, SM DAVE JACOMB, WM PIP FLOWERS AND SM KATHY COLLIS



“ WE NEEDED TO INVEST IN A RESILIENT AND ROBUST INCIDENT COMMAND CAPABILITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY AND THIS VEHICLE MEETS THAT NEED.

★ IAN JEARY
GROUP MANAGER

For more details about any of the solutions and applications featured in the EXCEL journal, please contact Excelebrate Technology on 0845 65 85 747