

Case Study

How Hungarian TETRA system EDR proved itself at NATO Summit



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Hungary hosted its highest profile diplomatic event in its recent history when the NATO Summit rolled into Budapest for two days in October 2008. Good communications were essential to help the meeting run smoothly, and the country's EDR authority network was upgraded to cope successfully with the expected increases in traffic.

Ministers from all 26 NATO countries attended the meeting, together with defence leaders from each country that was participating in NATO operations at the time. In all, there were delegations from 42 countries. So when some 700 people arrived in Budapest, an unprecedented level of security was implemented by the Hungarian authorities.

The nationwide EDR TETRA network has already proved to be robust and reliable in a range of high-security situations, but service provider Pro-M anticipated a major surge in radio transmission in downtown Budapest as a result of the summit.

Gearing up capacity

Pro-M therefore decided to add even greater capabilities to the network in the run up to the

event. The extra radio traffic in Budapest was solved by installing extra fixed and mobile units. In addition to increasing the capacity of the 13 existing base stations operating in the area, the company built a new base station that increased the local capacity of the radio system by 50%. The company also deployed a mobile base station to provide even greater support in the immediate vicinity of the meeting place at Műjégpálya ground.

According to Pro-M's statistics, the result was that the load on the base stations never exceeded 50% at any point over the two days of the summit. This meant that every call initiated during that time could be connected immediately, since ample network resources were available. In addition, Pro-M's customer services department received no notices or error reports regarding the event. All in all, Pro-M's thorough preparation meant that Hungary's public services secured the safety of the NATO defence ministers' summit without any hiccups whatsoever.

About Pro-M

Professzionális Mobilrádió Zrt. (Pro-M) is a member of the Hungarian Telekom Group. Pro-M was responsible for implementation of the EDR Unified Digital Radio Communications System in Hungary. The system provides very high availability connections between various public safety services that enable faster, more efficient and secure operations. EDR uses TETRA technology.

The users of EDR service include the police, fire department, disaster prevention service, National Environment, Nature Protection and Water Authority, National Ambulance Service, penal institutions, the army and national security services.