



Northern Constabulary Leverages TETRA Data to Reduce Crime and Improve Public Safety



Overview: Northern Constabulary

Northern Constabulary covers the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It is the most northerly Force in the UK covering a geographical area the size of Belgium, an area of some 10,000 sq miles. It serves a population of approximately 300,000 and employs around 1,100 staff including 700 police officers. As with other UK forces, Northern Constabulary use the secure Airwave TETRA communications network supplied by Motorola as well as Motorola's MTH800 portable TETRA radios.



The Challenge: Increasing Police Visibility and Effectiveness

Northern Constabulary is continually looking at ways of improving efficiency and thereby helping to improve police visibility by returning officers to frontline duties. One way of achieving this is by reducing the need to return to the station. If, for example, an officer required an accurate description of a missing person then they would need to return to the nearest police station. This is not only inefficient but also reduces the speed of response and therefore the likelihood of success. The only alternative would be to rely on a verbal description which reduced the chance of accurate identification. Given that it can take up to 2 hours to reach some of the more remote locations a new system could clearly deliver great benefits.

The Solution: Imaging Technology for Every Officer

To improve both effectiveness and efficiency, NORTHERN Constabulary developed its IMAGIN (Images Made Available to Groups or Individuals over Networks) solution to provide every officer (and special constable, traffic warden etc.) with on the street access to images and CCTV footage. The pioneering new scheme, now attracting huge interest from other Forces and Policing organisations, gives officers access to images through their Motorola MTH800 TETRA radio handsets.

Motorola's MTH800 handsets are a key part of the solution. Their high quality colour display make them ideal for receiving pictures whilst their in built WAP capability was the key enabler in developing the final solution. Their simple menu structure also enabled the images to be easily retrieved with just 3 or 4 simple button presses.

With the IMAGIN concept, the first of its kind in the UK, any officer can access any image from any source together with the appropriate text. The technology is similar to that used to make web pages available to mobile phones, except that the system uses the Airwave TETRA communications network used by all UK forces and supplied by Motorola. Motorola's TETRA infrastructure, combined with its data enabled TETRA radios provides a highly efficient packet data solution. For applications like IMAGIN it is the ideal technology as it provides the highly secure, always available, wide area coverage required.

Company name

Northern Constabulary

Industry name

Police

Product

- MTH800 TETRA radio
- Motorola's TETRA network
- IMAGIN solution

Solution Features

- TETRA data solution
- Secure and available
- Wide area
- Cost effective

Benefits

- Missing persons traced more quickly, potentially saving lives
- Officers need to return to the station less often
- Increased safety & efficiency through better identification
- Improved operation centre efficiency

“The IMAGIN capability will allow us to keep more officers on the streets for longer and negate the need to spend unnecessary time in the office. This will in turn help us to offer an improved service to the public.”

**Chief Constable Ian Latimer,
Northern Constabulary**

IMAGIN. Northern Constabulary Provides Images for Every Officer

NORTHERN Constabulary's IMAGIN solution provides every officer with on the street access to images & CCTV footage. This will have major benefits in reducing crime & improving public safety.

The IMAGIN system uses the Airwave TETRA network supplied by Motorola. Motorola's TETRA infrastructure, combined with its data enabled MTH800 TETRA radios provides a highly efficient, secure & available packet data solution. The MTH800's high quality colour display and WAP capability are also key enablers.

The IMAGIN system also allows officers to access the voter's roll for the Highlands and Islands, freeing up Force Operations Centre staff, and allowing verification of names and addresses on the street. Recently the DVLA driver database became accessible to the Force making it one of only a handful of Forces able to confirm driver identity using licence images at the roadside and the only Force providing the capability to all its officers.

Compared with previous solutions of returning to the station to get information or over the phone descriptions the new system is already proving a major benefit. Indeed such has been the success that all Scottish forces, through the ACPOS National Mobile Data Project, have expressed an interest and a number of forces in England are looking closely at how they could deploy it as well. Commenting, Norman MacLeod, Northern Joint Police Board convener said “We are delighted that Northern Constabulary is the first Force in the UK to make this capability available to all its officers. The more use we can make of this type of technology the safer our communities will be.”

Going forwards, thoughts are turning to possible future improvements. For example, could an officer take a picture, maybe using the camera on Motorola's MTC100 TETRA PDA, and upload it on to the system.

The Benefits:

The benefits of the new system are tremendous. As well as allowing officers to spend more time on the streets it also enhances their safety as they will be able to attend potentially dangerous situations armed with all the information about an individual, including an image, without having to waste time going back to the office for a briefing.

The solution also has the potential to save lives by enabling missing persons to be traced more quickly. With missing persons accurate and quick identification, made possible by the IMAGIN solution, is critical as the first hour is often vital (the golden hour principle).

“The benefits in terms of officer safety also cannot be overestimated”, said Chief Constable Ian Latimer, Northern Constabulary, “and our ability to locate missing persons or track down criminals more quickly will only assist us in ensuring we continue to make the Highlands and Islands a safer place to live, work and invest.”

Additional ways that the solution will help increase police effectiveness and efficiency include: sending maps to officers to help with directions; assisting with firearms enquiries; identifying disqualified drivers; sending daily briefings to officers; helping identify suspects, verifying identifications and freeing up the time of operation centre staff.

Finally, using the advanced data capabilities of the TETRA network and the MTH800 TETRA radio has proved to be a highly cost effective way of implementing the IMAGIN solution and thereby reducing crime and improving public safety.

For more information please contact your local Motorola Authorised Dealer or Distributor

