World Congress News

The 4th TETRA World Congress

Wednesday, December 12th, 2001

Second generation in ruggedised TETRA radios from Motorola

In a no compromise, communi-cation vital environment the handset you carry needs to do the job first time, every time. Motorola recognised this need with their award winning first generation TETRA radios, now having carried out further extensive research, Motorola introduce the very latest in digital TETRA technology, the MTP700 and MTM700.

The MTP700 handheld radio is a third smaller then the last generation and has even more features packed into this light, ruggedised handset. While the MTM700 mobile radio provides the user the choice of application with four different mounting options, including a dash, remote, desk, and motorcycle mount.

Those users who work on long shifts will now be able to take advantage of even longer periods between battery charges. This is with the help of Motorola's new IMPRES™ battery and charger, meaning that the average time between charges has risen from 14.5 to 22 hours (5/5/90).

John McConnell, Director of Motorola's Subscriber Group said "Motorola have an ethos of 'no compromise' products for their customers and the new generation radios are very reliable and robust. We know the kinds of scenarios in which our radios will be used; they have to be able to func-tion in any kind of crisis situation while encompassing the ability to deliver the communications services into the future."

Summing up the new radios McConnell said, "both radios con-tain the latest in micro-processor technology that helps to guarantee easy upgrades when new functions and services become available."

Infomatrix Delivers Operational Mobile Data Access to Jersey Police

Cambridge-based Infomatrix has developed a TETRA based mobile data access system for the States of Jersey Police.

The Jersey Police system planned for operational deployment early next year, will enable officers using mobile data terminals to gain remote access to critical police IT systems, including vehicle registra-tion, license information, person search and crime watch/photograph. The system will enable Intranet data access with concurrent SDS messaging and remote image retrieval & video capture.

Through the flexibility of Infoma-trix's application, Jersey Police officers using different types of mobile data terminals from PDA's to rugged in-vehicle terminals can connect directly to any TETRA radio, providing a truly interope-rable solution. The application also enables officers to gain fast, easy and reliable access to key systems, at greatly enhanced data rates.

The Jersey Police solution is based on the company's UniTech family of connectivity and application products. UniTech

InfoBase provides corporate data and Intranet access; UniTech Alert supports e-mail and messaging; and UniTech TurboNet offers enhanced data throughputs using optimised compression algorithms.

Gary Buesnel, Head of Commu-nications, States of Jersey Police, said "Our vision is to empower the police officer so that they have greater control over their work through TETRA mobile data services. The system which Infomatrix has developed, comprising an exciting portfolio of enabling technologies will help us greatly in the incre-mental achievement of this goal."

An ETSI success story

Just a few kilometres west from here, in Sophia Antipolis, is the home of the ETSI – the European Telecommunications Standards Institute. Its mission is to produce the telecommunications standards that will be used for decades to come throughout Europe and beyond. ETSI is justifiably proud of TETRA as one of its success stories. TETRA is the only digital trunking radio system standar-dised by ETSI. The increasing market success of TETRA systems among Public Safety users and other Private Mobile Radio / Public Access Mobile Radio users in Europe and elsewhere has really also been a success of ETSI, where the TETRA system standardisation has taken place during the past ten years.

The standardisation continues in the form of TETRA Release 2 in ETSI Project TETRA. The three year programme for TETRA Release 2 started in ETSI at the end of 2000. Unlike TETRA Release 1 (which required new technology developments from grass roots) TETRA Release 2 will utilise as much as possible existing technology solutions and standards that are planned, or already exist in ETSI. The first set of ETSI TETRA Release 2 deliver-ables is now ready and the stand-ardisation programme is running at full speed to meet the tight time-scales of TETRA Release 2.

Crisis management and communications

Faced with any humanitarian disaster, natural or, most dread-fully man-made, the mobilisation and co-ordination of resources clearly are at the heart of any response by emergency services and other support organisations. In today's keynote speeches we will hear from those whose job it is to plan for the unexpected and implement communication solutions in times of crisis.

Hans Zimmermann is Senior Officer in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, respon-sible for the co-ordination of international humanitarian assistance, and head of the secretariat of the Secretariat of the Working Group on Emer-gency Telecommunications (WGET). He regularly writes for publications on humanitarian affairs and on regulatory aspects of telecommunications, most recently as chairman of the editorial board for the ITU Handbook on Disaster Commu-nications for Developing Countries.

Hans' earlier assignments include long term posts in countries affected by humani-tarian crises, such as Lebanon, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Liberia, and more recently he led assessment and evaluation missions to former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Namibia, Pakistan, Nepal and other countries affected by natural disasters or complex emergencies.

Steve Proctor has been described as "an interoperability zealot!". He is currently the Executive Director of Utah's Communications Agency Network (UCAN) network and is an active member of the Public Safety Wireless Network (PSWN), the US federal group that promotes interoperability education. He is Executive Vice Chair, PSWN Executive Committee and is also a past President of APCO.

UCAN is a system that will cover nine counties of Utah to serve over 50 agencies. This system will be used together with Federal, local, and special-purpose communications during the 2002 Winter Olympics coming up shortly in Salt Lake City, Utah. Steve's interests in interoperability and disaster preparedness are of great relevance during preparations for this high-profile global event.

Reserve your seat early in the main presentation hall. Hans Zimmerman and Steve Proctor will be worth hearing.

In this issue: First ever inter-network group call; TETRA expands in Asia; New MoU Chairman; Nice's Deputy Mayor opens Congress

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World's first cross border group call

Nokia and Motorola have demonstrated the world's first group call between TETRA networks across borders. This call used a connection based on a general four-wire interface is an important step towards ISI interoperability, which will allow users of Public Service networks to co-operate across borders.

This network connection has been developed to support the three country pilot programme involving Public Service TETRA networks in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. The programme will confirm the operational benefits of cross-border use provide operational staff with experience and ratify the Schengen agreement on using TETRA as the cross-border communication standard.

Belgium's shared authority network, known as ASTRID, is planned to cover the border area in the Liege region by mid 2002. The Dutch C2000 system will be built to cover the border area in the same period. On the German border, a pilot system in Aachen has been operational since July 2001.

Kari Suneli, Senior Vice President, Nokia, says, "Nokia believes this solution provides useful experience on cross border use, for both the user organi-sations and TETRA manufacturers, and will allow faster and better development towards full ISI functionality."

In addition to basic call control and mobility management, the ISI specification also covers unique TETRA functionality such as group and emergency communication, half duplex calls, text- and status messaging, authentication and encryption, as well as other functions crucial for TETRA users.

"We have been very pleased with our trial in Aachen, and we now look forward to implemen-ting the three-country pilot. When talking with our customers we know there is a strong desire for interoperability. Fast reliable and resilient communications are needed across all borders whether they be county or country," says Bill Spencer, Senior Vice President, Motorola.

More information on the three-Country Pilot is available at:
http://www.astrid.be
http://www.ito.nl
http://www.pilotprojekt-digitalfunk-aachen.de/index.htm

Debate of the Day –
TETRA vs the rest! The question of convergence

Convergence is a much-debated topic by users, consultants, technologists and manufacturers around the world. This after-noon's plenary debate will provide a frank review of TETRA's strengths and weaknesses and its positioning against a variety of alternative technology solutions. Acronyms are everywhere – TETRA, EDGE, UMTS, DIIS, iDEN, EDACS, APCO25 and more! Evidence enough of a potentially crowded technology platform? Perhaps, but TETRA has several unique strengths that help it stand on its own and may probably position it as a perfect complement to some other technologies, providing the blend of services required by users.

The debate is opened by Peter Clemons who examines the opportunities for TETRA in a rapidly converging mobile environment. This is followed by an overview from Alex Green, a senior consultant at IMS who have recently published a com-prehensive report on the commu-nications market and growth predictions for the future. Where do they see TETRA fitting in? The discussions then open to a panel session that will examine a variety of specific convergences or clashes as some might see them. Make sure you converge on this afternoon's plenary – the debate will be one you shouldn't miss.

Date for your diary — The TETRA World Congress 2002 will be held here in Nice between November 18 and 22

Question of the Day –
what have people learnt when implementing TETRA systems?

The only thing that beats learning from experience is learning from other people's experience! It gives an insight into real issues that help everyone as they tread the TETRA path. This morning's plenary brings experience literally from around the world – Hong Kong, Italy and the U.K. with perspec-tives from users in the Public Safety and Transportation sectors.

After the morning break, the conference agenda splits into streams to continue the learning focus. Stream E concentrates on the critical questions for Network Operators, whilst stream D continues the discussions about Government and Public Safety TETRA initiatives. Stream F examines a number of TETRA solution topics with a particular focus on IP solutions. In order to bring everyone up-to-date with the action and discussion of the separate streams, the afternoon plenary will start with a small resumé from each one.

Simoco Announces TETRA over IP contract win in Asia

Graham Matthews (SDS) and Bang Yong Kim (Seenode) shake hands on the Korean contract

Simoco Digital Systems (SDS) has announced that Seenode, its partner in Korea, has been awarded a USD5.9 million contract to supply a TETRA system for the Seoul Metropolitan Police Authority (SMPA). Won in the face of stiff competition, the contract is to replace the current analogue radio system with a digital TETRA over Internet Protocol (ToIP) system.

The SMPA project will be the first ever ToIP system to be installed in Asia. It is also by far the largest public safety system contract to be awarded to SDS/Thales in this region. The contract win expands on the continued successes of the SDS/Thales partnership in their achievement to be the first to implement operational ToIP systems in Europe, South America and now, Asia.

Working in the 800MHz band, coverage across Seoul will be provided from 9 sites with a total of 18 base stations. In addition, there will be 5000 handheld radios and 1168 mobiles, 134 of which will be installed on Police motorcycles.

Mr B Y Kim, President of Seenode, commented on the order saying, "SMPA's decision to move forward with the SDS TETRA over IP solution was greatly influenced by the fact that TETRA has emerged as the pre-eminent open digital private mobile radio standard in the world. Essentially this standard allows radio equipment by different manu-facturers to inter-operate on the same network, if required. Looking forward, the technology itself will continue to grow and benefit from new developments from multiple sources."

He also pointed out that the unique TETRA over IP solution from SDS will provide SMPA with a high performance system that is modular in construction and has been developed with flexibility, resilience, signal integrity and with the open standard, future-proof technology in mind.

Highlights of the first day

The World Congress opened with an address from the Deputy Mayor of Nice, Dr. Rampal. This honour is rarely accorded to events at the Acropolis. Dr Rampal welcomed delegates to Nice, wishing them a successful three days of debate and discussion. The morning's plenary was opened by Phil Godfrey, the outgoing chairman of the TETRA MoU Association. Phil's presentation, delivered with his customary English humour, underlined TETRA's exciting future and demonstrated to delegates TETRA's clear role in the future of communications. His analysis of alternative technology solutions demonstrated that he had been keeping his ear close to the market! The World Congress has already hit the headlines with a large article in Tuesday's *Nice Matin* and four companies have announced new products.

The TETRA World Congress Gala Dinner

Have you got your ticket to tonight's TETRA social event of the year – the Gala Dinner at 'La Siesta'? Make sure you have your ticket and reservation by checking with the IIR Gala Ticket desk today.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes – 'the World's Greatest Living Explorer' is tonight's speaker. He has led 22 major expeditions to some of the remotest parts of the world. Some of his most breathtaking and dangerous accomplishments have been during his expeditions to both the North and South Poles of our planet. Enjoy his 'chilling' anecdotes from the warmth and safety of a Mediterranean restaurant – far more sensible!

Following Sir Ranulph's presentation will be the 'TETRA Awards for 2001' – the annual opportunity for the very best products, services and personalities of the TETRA world to receive their public honours. A suitable end to a fantastic evening. Don't miss the bus. Coaches leave the Acropolis at 19:15 to take you to the exquisite 'La Siesta' restaurant overlooking the shores of the Côte d'Azur, and return to Nice at 11:15.

Ray Ginman is new TETRA MoU Association Chairman

Ray Ginman is the new Chairman of the TETRA MoU Association. Selected unanimously by the members during the TETRA AGM. Ray takes-over from the retiring Chairman, Phil Godfrey. Ray takes the helm of an association with a growing membership and an increasing demand for its services to guide the future of TETRA. Ray Ginman commented:" I am delighted to accept the challenge of the TETRA MoU's Chairmanship at this time. The members, quite rightly, are looking for their association to deliver added-value in a number of ways. We can do this by improving and increasing the broad range of services to support our members whilst we take the lead in driving TETRA forward."

More award nominations than ever

This year's nomination lists for the TETRA award categories are the largest ever. This is yet another piece of evidence to demonstrate the success and maturity of TETRA.

The 'Best New TETRA Product' category has entries from nine manufacturers covering terminals, base stations, infrastructure, dispatchers and innovative antennas.

Nominations for the 'Most Innovative TETRA Service' literally reach around the world with entries from the Asia-Pacific region as well as Europe. The largest category this year is the 'Most Innovative Applications Development'. Nominations for this category are well into double figures!

Collection boxes for ballot papers will be found all around the Conference areas. You must cast your vote by the end of the afternoon break, today (16:15, Wednesday 12th). This year, we have introduced a distinguished panel of experts who will contribute their opinions to yours in order to reach the final decision. The awards will be made at tonight's Gala Dinner.

Remember – your vote counts!

On the road with Nokia TETRA

A day in the working life of two patrol officers in Belgium is varied and eventful. But Nokia TETRA helps to ease the workload and make police highway operations more efficient – no matter what the task

It's the start of another day and police officers Pierrette and Wilfried are patrolling the Belgian highway near the Dutch and German borders. One of their main tasks today is to measure the speed of cars, using a radar linked to a digital camera.

However, they both know that an essential part of their equipment is a WAP enabled TETRA radio, which links them with their own talk group - the dispatcher and other police cars patrolling the same area. As well as good, constant communication, officers Pierrette and Wilfried have the extra security of knowing that the dispatcher can pinpoint their position at all times through the Automatic Vehicle Location, which uses TETRA SDS.

Data makes daily tasks easier

The dispatcher calls them and asks them to check for stolen cars too. Officer Pierrette uses the WAP browser installed on their in-car PC to access the police database of stolen cars. The application uses secured TETRA packet data and gives immediate access to the database. She notices several that are currently wanted and tells officer Wilfried to look out for them.

Using this type of data service is a major part of their daily routine. Because they don't have to talk to the dispatcher to get the information, it makes everyone's work easier. And because all voice and data communication is secure, they don't worry about criminals listening in.

Suddenly, a car flashes past them in the outside lane, a black Jaguar. Officer Pierrette hits the button on the radar set and gets a reading of its speed - its doing over 190 km/h. Officer Wilfried puts his foot down and the police car roars off in pursuit.

While officer Wilfried guides their own car skilfully through the traffic and gradually overhauls the speeding car, officer Pierrette uses the TETRA WAP application to check the vehicle's registration. She gets the information she needs instantly.

As they approach the car with their siren on, it slows down and pulls over to the side of the highway. They tell the other members of their talk group what they are doing. As they talk to the driver, they use the ambient listening function on their radio, allowing the dispatcher to hear what is going on at the scene. This is a useful way of improving their security. The car is not stolen - it is being driven by its owner. Because it was travelling so far outside the speed limit, they decide to impose a fine, using a credit card reader in the police car. This is connected to the banks' and credit card companies' databases using secure TETRA packet data. The fine paid, the driver continues on his way, a bit more sedately this time.

Talk groups help with incidents

As they drive off themselves, the two police officers receive an urgent call from their dispatcher. A major collision has left wrecked vehicles across all three lanes of the east-bound carriageway of a major road near the border with the Netherlands and Germany. Their dispatcher asks them to go to the scene and redirect traffic.

They are put into a temporary talk group set up to handle the incident, including rescue and police services from Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

The public safety organisations - police, rescue, border guards - use the same TETRA infrastructure and radio channel resources for their operations. Each organisation operates its own Virtual Private Network. The TETRA Inter-System Interface allows different networks to work with each other.

The officers set up signs and road cones to direct the approaching traffic onto another road - clearing the wreckage will take most of the day and the two officers are soon reassigned to their normal duties.