



Case: Shell chooses MOTOTRBO for Gabon operation

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Petrochemical giant Shell has replaced its analogue trunked MPT1327 system with Motorola's innovative MOTOTRBO digital radio solution, using IP Site Connect to link two sites in Gabon which are 90 kilometres apart via a point to point (PTP) wireless broadband network.

The sophisticated new system, which provides voice and data communication for around 300 Shell employees and sub-contractors, was supplied by Soicex Electronique, a Danimex dealer and a Motorola reseller partner for more than 10 years. The company is well established in the African market, with over thirty years of telecommunications experience.

Expanded coverage, improved audio quality and the ability to track people and assets using built-in GPS has significantly enhanced efficiency – most notably at Shell's extraction shafts which run 24 hours a day.

Shell operates in over 100 countries and is involved in both exploration projects and oil production, holding substantial interests in various offshore permits including Port-Gentil in Gabon. Having used two-way radio communication for the past twenty years, the company has chosen MOTOTRBO because it is a cost-effective, feature-rich solution. Double call capacity, enhanced channel management and the ability to connect several single-site systems via a standard IP network for uninterrupted voice and data communication are just some of MOTOTRBO's key attractions.

The system comprises four DR3000 repeaters at each site, providing a total of eight communication channels across the two sites. They are linked using Motorola's PTP 300 Series wireless ethernet bridges which deliver affordable, high-performance connectivity, even in high-interference environments. Shell is using DP3601 portables and DM3601 mobile radios with integrated GPS that offer a flexible, menu-driven interface for ease of use, while large navigation buttons make it possible to use the radios even when wearing protective clothing.

The portables also meet FM approvals for operation in locations where flammable gas, vapours or combustible dust may be present and additional security is available for remote workers with pre-programmed and emergency alerts which automatically activate should an incident occur. This provides critical communication for Shell's petroleum exploitation, logistics and security services.

"MOTOTRBO gives Shell greater employee safety by ensuring staff can keep in contact at all times and respond quickly. Enhanced communications and coverage enables employees at multiple sites to communicate seamlessly, promoting better co-operation and optimising performance, which is crucial to success in this challenging industry," noted Frédéric Frenedo-Rosso, General Manager at Soicex Electronique.




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