



THE INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION DEPLOYS MOTOTRBO™ IP SITE CONNECT

FOR RELIABLE, CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS AT THE 2023 FIS FREESTYLE SKI, SNOWBOARD AND FREESKI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BAKURIANI, GEORGIA



BAKURIANI 2023 - FIS FREESTYLE SKI, SNOWBOARD AND FREESKI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Originally founded in Chamonix in 1924, the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) is the highest international governing body for skiing and snowboarding and is responsible for all Olympic skiing and snowboarding disciplines, including setting international competition rules. The organisation has a membership of 132 national ski associations and is based in Oberhofen am Thunersee, Switzerland. Part of the FIS, the Georgian Ski Federation (GSF) organised the Freestyle Ski, Snowboard and Freeski World Championships that took place in Bakuriani, Georgia, between 19th February and 5th March 2023. Competitors and their support teams (approximately 4,000 people in total) came from all over the world to compete for the 30 gold medals up for grabs across freestyle, freeski, snowboard and team events. The first ever snow sports World Championships held in Georgia, the event has been hailed as a great success.

CHALLENGE

Eight years ago, LLC COMMUNICOM LTD started working with the Mountain Trails Agency (M.T.A.), a government organisation managing and developing Georgia's ski resorts and the mountain rescue and emergency teams in the four largest ski and hiking areas (Bakuriani, Gudauri, Goderdzi and Hatsvali) all use a range of MOTOTRBO networks and radios. Following the success of these deployments, COMMUNICOM

also started working with the Georgian Ski Federation at about the same time and GSF has its own fleet of circa 50 DP1400 Digital Portable Two-Way Radios, supplied by COMMUNICOM. GSF has been using this MOTOTRBO fleet in direct mode for short-range communications to manage smaller events, such as one of the freeski tour stages held in Bakuriani last year, and at the Freeride Week at Tetnuld in the Svaneti mountain range.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Organisations:

- Fédération internationale de ski et de snowboard (FIS, International Ski and Snowboard Federation)
- Georgian Ski Federation (GSF)
- FIS Freestyle Ski, Snowboard and Freeski World Championships

Partner:

LLC COMMUNICOM LTD

Industry:

Sports & Leisure, Events Management

Location:

Bakuriani, Georgia

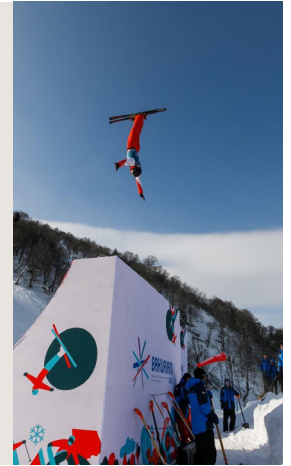


CASE STUDY

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION
GEORGIAN SKI FEDERATION
FIS FREESTYLE SKI, SNOWBOARD AND FREESKI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

“We have worked successfully with Motorola Solutions and COMMUNICOM for years. So, when Bakuriani was selected to host the Freestyle and Freeski World Championships, we didn’t need to look further afield. I was responsible for all the planning and budgeting, as well as the day-to-day operations once the championships started. When I explained our requirements to COMMUNICOM, they recommended a MOTOTRBO IP Site Connect system. The team at COMMUNICOM is very knowledgeable, communicative and proactive and they took care of everything, from configuration, installation, support and management to the dismantling of the infrastructure post event. The system worked brilliantly. Our different teams could communicate exactly as they needed to, there was 100% call success rate and the system was even linked to the local mountain rescue network, so we had direct communications with them too. These reliable, flexible radio communications really played a key role in the operational success of the event. We are delighted and we’ll definitely be using a similar system for future large-scale events here in Georgia.”

Levan Metreveli, Sports Director of FIS Freestyle Ski, Snowboard and Freeski World Championships in Bakuriani 2023, Georgian Ski Federation



The greatest challenge for the deployment at the World Championships was trying to establish the best system to meet the demanding needs of the tournament and the location: to ensure the right number of frequencies, channels and talk groups for all eventualities, especially in view of the complicated competition schedule across three venues, with simultaneous events and two courses sharing the same finish. As well as operational teams on the mountain, FIS also needed groups and coverage for managers and the media, who were often based at meetings or press conferences taking place in hotels in the resort. GSF was keen to use a MOTOTRBO network, as the technology was proven to be reliable and suited to the terrain and conditions, delivered by its long-term partner COMMUNICOM. COMMUNICOM also proposed linking the temporary event network to the established M.T.A. mountain rescue system, to enable seamless collaboration between the teams in the event of an emergency.

SOLUTION

Established Motorola Solutions partner COMMUNICOM worked very closely with GSF right from the planning stage, which started five months prior to the championships. COMMUNICOM recommended a MOTOTRBO IP Site Connect System, so that all the GSF/FIS teams could communicate across the wide area, and even though different areas operated on different frequency bands, the radios were able to roam seamlessly between coverage areas. The teams using the system ranged from race officials including judges, to piste control, managers, security, medics, the press, kit storage, and snowplough drivers. COMMUNICOM installed two SLR 5500 repeaters and masts at the top of the Didveli pistes and two repeaters and masts at the top of the Kokhta pistes, to ensure coverage across these two ski areas. The final two repeaters and two further masts were installed at the central control room in the resort. Each repeater had a backup battery power supply in case of an outage. COMMUNICOM thoroughly tested the network prior to the start of the championships, to ensure that the audio was clear and reliable everywhere the radios were due to be used. For this event, teams were purely using voice communications.

To supplement GSF’s existing fleet, COMMUNICOM supplied a further 200 DP1400 rental radios, fitted with high-capacity Li-Ion batteries to ensure they lasted through the long work shifts in

extreme cold. Operational teams also utilised RSMs and chest packs that enabled those personnel to work hands-free, or whilst wearing gloves, and ensured they could always hear the radio messages, even if conditions were very windy or noisy, such as when announcements were being made. Management staff, meanwhile, were equipped with the slim and light SL1600 radios, and 25 of the DM1400 mobile radios were fitted into the snowploughs being used to prepare the pistes, with the final 5 being set up in the control room, for use by central command.

COMMUNICOM programmed sixteen channels – three linked to the mountain rescue teams – established numerous talk groups and configured each individual radio to the needs of each specific user. COMMUNICOM also provided engineers on-site during the championships, who were able to provide 24/7 support, reprogramming radios when staff had to work over more than one venue, for example, and troubleshooting, as required. Once the championships had ended, these engineers were also responsible for dismantling the system.

BENEFIT

Levan Metreveli summarises: “The eyes of the world were on us at the Bakuriani World Championships, which is why we insisted on Motorola Solutions radios to show that we have best-in-class. And we were not disappointed. We had 100% first-time call rate. Audio quality was excellent. The radios were totally reliable and the network provided all the coverage we needed, so all the users could always communicate effectively, wherever they were situated. This ultimately meant the championships ran smoothly and were a success. And linking the network to the mountain rescue network was also a huge benefit. We used this connection with M.T.A. over forty times during the event and the direct link made this communication much faster and significantly reduced response times. Thank you, Motorola; thank you, COMMUNICOM; we trusted you to deliver, and you did.”

Looking forward, Georgia is to host a growing number of international events in the coming years, such as the 2023 UEFA European Under-21 Championships and the Freeride World Tours, where similar MOTOTRBO systems may be needed to deliver reliable, robust radio communications in complex or challenging conditions.

Motorola Solutions Products:

- MOTOTRBO IP Site Connect System comprising:
- 6 x SLR 5500 Two-Way Repeaters
- 250 x DP1400 Digital Portable Two-Way Radios with High-Capacity Li-Ion batteries
- 50 x SL1600 Ultra-Slim and Rugged Two-Way Radios
- 30 x DM1400 Digital Mobile Two-Way Radios
- Accessories including 250 x Remote Speaker Microphones (RSMs), 10 x 6-Way Chargers and 100 x Motorola Universal Chest Packs

Benefits:

- The system was fast and easy to configure and install, despite the bespoke requirements and geographical challenges
- User feedback has been excellent, with workers particularly appreciating the RSMs and chest packs, which enabled hands-free communication in all conditions, and the long-life batteries unaffected by the cold
- The system delivered reliable communications, with 100% call success rate during the event
- The flexibility to link the system to the local mountain rescue MOTOTRBO network further enhanced safety and operational efficiency, reducing response times to incidents



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