SOMALIA’S POLICE FORCE

Somalia’s Police Force plays a key role in establishing and maintaining security in Mogadishu, Somalia’s capital and largest city, with a population of 2.12 million. The Police Force previously used analogue radios to manage communications and wanted to install a new network to deliver greater capacity, coverage, reliability and security. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) led the drive to install the new system. Full implementation was made possible when Japanese Trust Fund money could be secured for the initiative.

Motorola Solutions has a long history working within the United Nations’ System and recommended that the new network be built around MOTOTRBO. MOTOTRBO is Motorola Solutions’ high-capacity and high-performance digital two-way radio system, which has proved itself repeatedly as a system which is suitable to harsh environments and simple to operate and maintain for the end-user. To ensure robust operation in an area where power supplies can be unreliable, Motorola Solutions designed robust steel containers for the network’s three sites which function as utility hubs. Besides housing all the radio frequency (RF) equipment, the hubs also provide basic power through generators or solar panels to operate lighting, printers and charge radios at local Police stations.

Following extensive project preparation and detailed site surveys, Motorola Solutions pre-built, configured and tested the entire system in Germany to guarantee an accelerated system roll-out in Somalia. The first phase of the deployment is now complete, with network coverage due to be extended over the country as territory is recaptured from rebels by Government Forces. Motorola Solutions will provide maintenance for a year but has also completed nine weeks of training to transfer knowledge and enable the Police to manage the system. The network provides encrypted communications to prevent eavesdropping, high quality audio calls, and data services including GPS tracking in key operational areas in the capital. It is helping officers to respond quickly to incidents and better safeguard themselves, colleagues and citizens.
CASE STUDY
MOTOTRBO FOR SOMALIA POLICE

“The number one priority is to ensure our officers have secure, reliable and high-performance communications wherever they need it in Mogadishu. We have achieved this with the MOTOTRBO two-way digital radio system that was pre-tested and installed without issue. It provides our officers with the lifeline of instant communications that they need to complete their missions, respond quickly to incidents and better protect the public.”

Chief of Police, Somalia’s Police Force

THE CHALLENGE
The Police Force of Somalia wanted to upgrade its analogue two-way radio system. Its main objective was to install a secure and reliable system, with enhanced voice and data services that would provide coverage across all areas of the capital. The system needed to be sustainable on a long-term basis and easy to deploy, operate and maintain in the tough local environment. The radio sites would need to be self-reliant in terms of power to ensure trouble-free network operation.

THE SOLUTION
The United Nations has a long-standing relationship with Motorola Solutions and the project team took the decision to install a MOTOTRBO digital two-way radio network. The network was installed as part of a Utility Hub Project, which provides not only RF coverage, but also a basic power supply for the Police Force.

To help ensure the reliability and performance of the system, Motorola Solutions designed three secure containers which house all the hardware and software to run the network. This includes independent solar power sources with battery arrays, 12m masts – that can be manually pumped up – all RF equipment, Point-to-Point site linking using IP, charging points for user radios and inbuilt computers which run TRBOnet™ Plus to enable GPS tracking, dispatching, operations coordination and monitoring and maintenance of the system.

Before installing the network, Motorola Solutions conducted detailed site surveys, and built and tested the equipment in Germany. It has also provided a vital, comprehensive nine-week knowledge transfer and training programme to help the Police Force operate, maintain and troubleshoot the system. During the first 12 months of the contract, Motorola Solutions will also provide service support; this service may be extended to install and maintain and provide strong reliability to ensure that, whenever officers press the call button, they can trust that they will have the lifeline of communications. The network’s coverage will be extended in future, with Motorola Solutions due to add new sites in operational areas outside of Mogadishu.

To help boost the skills of local people, Motorola Solutions worked with local partners and provided nine weeks of training for employees to learn how to use, monitor and maintain the system. This will help ensure long-term value from the network – a key benefit for the Japanese government that has funded the network. In addition, Motorola Solutions provides a comprehensive support service package with a combination of remote and on-site technical support. The self-contained, self-powered cabinets are easy to install and maintain and provide strong reliability to ensure that, whenever officers press the call button, they can trust that they will have the lifeline of communications. The network design, build and installation service provided by Motorola Solutions helped accelerate deployment, with pre-configuration and testing conducted by Motorola Solutions in Berlin. This pre-commissioning and network approval helped ensure the trouble-free installation.

THE BENEFITS
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To discover the advantages Motorola Solutions’ two-way radios can bring to your business, please visit www.motorolasolutions.com/mototrbo

Motorola Solutions Services:

- Site survey
- System Staging (Configuration and setup of system before shipping)
- Installation in Somalia
- Training and knowledge transfer by Systel, a Motorola Solutions’ Distribution Partner
- One year maintenance (Including post deployment visits)

Applications:
- TRBOnet™ Plus:
  - GPS Tracking
  - Dispatching
  - Text messaging
- System monitoring and analytics

Benefits:
- Enhanced communications – better radio coverage, free texting, clear voice calls ensure improved incident response
- Improved security – including voice encryption, GPS tracking, priority calls and remote radio disabling
- Ease of deployment, maintenance and use – of both the MOTOTRBO network and the containers
- Power independent solution
- Easily scalable

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