Motorola Delivers TETRA Digital Radio System for G8 Summit

In June 2007 Heiligendamm, one of the oldest towns in Germany, was the venue for the G8 Summit. In addition to welcoming high profile world leaders, the Heiligendamm authorities also knew the venue could attract a host of G8 antagonists who had previously announced their plans for demonstrations and blockades. To ensure the smooth running of such an event, as well as guarantee the safety of international delegates and the residents of Heiligendamm, an innovative approach to public safety communications was critical. Developing such a system was one of the challenges presented to the police and the emergency services of the LPBK (Landesamt für zentrale Aufgaben und Technik der Polizei, Brand- und Katastrophenschutz Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) state agency.

The initial situation
When the heads of state of the leading industrial nations meet, security is a prime concern and the highest security measures need to be taken. One such example of ensuring extreme security for the summit was to surround the town in twelve kilometers of metal grid fence. Since the delegates and their teams were based in several different areas throughout Heiligendamm, it was necessary to distribute the security forces in several locations. Almost 18,000 police officers were on patrol during the G8 Summit, with support from another 2,300 members of the fire and ambulance services and the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW). In order to effectively coordinate the huge number of emergency services and security forces in the area and to meet the associated logistical requirements, secure and reliable communications were indispensable.

The project involved the seamless radio coverage of the 9,200 square kilometer operational area, which not only included Heiligendamm but also Greater Rostock and Rostock-Laage airport. The federal agency dismissed the option of an analogue radio solution due to its poorer voice quality and inflexibility compared to a digital system.
“Within a three-month period, Motorola was able to provide a TETRA digital radio solution for the G8 Summit, including terminal equipment and train the operational personnel.”

(Alexander Burghardt, Director of Sales Central Europe, Motorola GmbH)

As the planners had already had positive experiences with a TETRA system in 2006, when U.S. President George W. Bush visited, they again opted for a TETRA digital two-way radio solution for the G8 Summit.

The LPBK contracted Motorola for the implementation of this large-scale project. Motorola has considerable experience of working with security agencies; including installing national public safety radio networks in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Austria. In addition, Motorola had already delivered TETRA digital two-way radio technology for the G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland in 2005.

Motorola had only three months to install a complete TETRA system, deliver 2,100 radios ready for use and train the operating personnel to use the technology. Motorola was also responsible for the whole system from radio field planning, enabling locations, coordination of the connecting network and implementation of the communication plan (fleet mapping), through to the supply, installation and commissioning of the system. Motorola also provided ongoing technical operations support.
“Wolfgang Schäuble, Federal Minister of the Interior, also gave a positive review of the security situation at the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm. He said the federal and state police forces ensured the security of our guests of state and guaranteed a smooth and undisturbed execution of the summit in a relaxed atmosphere.” (TV news show “ZDF heute”, June 8, 2007)

**The solution**

During the G8 Summit, the LPBK used a TETRA digital two-way radio system that was based on Motorola’s Dimetra IP platform. The solution consisted of a Multi Switching Center, two control centers with radio operating stations and network management terminals, 19 base stations (MTS2 and MTS4) as well as three mobile base stations. These were complemented by 1,300 handheld radios, 625 mobile radios and 175 fixed radios. The latest TETRA mobile radios, MTP850 and MTM800 from Motorola, made a considerable contribution to the success of the project:

A particular feature of the TETRA solution that was used during the G8 Summit was the integrated location function via GPS. It allowed the operation control center to quickly assess the position of a participant and send reinforcements in the case of an emergency call, thus making efficient use of the available security personnel.
The result
The system has successfully demonstrated its practical value. With the Dimetra IP platform from Motorola, the security forces could rely on a secure and reliable communication network during the G8 Summit. Combined with the robust and ergonomically designed radio devices, it ensured that more than 20,000 members of the emergency services and security forces were available anywhere at any time within the operational area. During the main phase, more than 170,000 calls were handled by the TETRA solution, and the actual radio coverage exceeded the predicted levels.

The cooperation between the LPBK, local partners and Motorola was instrumental to creating such a successful network in such a short timeframe.

About Motorola
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