The network for business on the move

Comparing Transcomm's Network with TETRA

THE TRANSCOMM NETWORK

Transcomm has a proven, reliable and cost-efficient network specifically designed for business to business applications that require high levels of availability, integrity and security. Successfully used in the UK for over 10 years, the Transcomm Network is a data-only service built on Ericsson's proven Mobitex® technology using packet switching for maximum efficiency. The network is instantly accessible with no call set-up time or contention with voice.

Mobitex is an open standard with networks implemented in over 30 countries worldwide, making Mobitex the largest dedicated wireless data technology in the global market. In the UK, Transcomm continues to be the network of choice for organisations requiring business critical wireless data communications, including over 55% of UK Police Forces under a Home Office Framework Agreement.

TETRA

TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) is a standard for a wireless communication system that was designed by the European Telecommunications Standardisation Institute (ETSI) to meet the requirements of business and Emergency Service users for mobile voice and data services. There are currently two Public TETRA Networks in the UK, operated by Dolphin and mmO2 Airwave, primarily focussed on the provision of digital voice services including "push to talk", group calling and other "PMR-like" voice services.

Although packet data is part of the TETRA standard, it is not currently available[1] on either UK TETRA network and is not expected to be generally available for at least two to three years.

The TETRA standard continues to be developed: TETRA 2 services, which include faster packet data and compatibility with 3G services, are specified but not yet available. Additional spectrum for TETRA 2 services has been granted to Dolphin in the UK.

TETRAPOL

TETRAPOL is a proprietary voice and data network technology that at a functional level is very similar to TETRA. TETRAPOL differs from TETRA in the method used to allocate spectrum to calls and there is continuing debate as to their relative merits. A number of TETRAPOL networks have been implemented, but none so far in the UK. TETRAPOL networks do not currently appear to have implemented packet data.

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[1] As of November 2003

Transcomm – the ideal choice for mission-critical wireless applications
with frequent, short bursts of data

	The Transcomm Network	TETRA Networks in UK
Network	UK Public Packet Data Network. Operates to the Mobitex standard.	• Dolphin: UK Public TETRA Network. • mmO2 Airwave: UK TETRA Network for Emergency Services and related users.
Geographic Coverage	Over 95% of UK population.	• Dolphin – approximately 95% of UK population. • mmO2 Airwave – still rolling out, not yet fully available throughout the UK.
Prime Network Focus	Packet data for business critical applications including the Emergency Services.	• Dolphin – digital voice and SDS for business. • mmO2 Airwave – digital voice and SDS, with packet data in the future.
Packet Data	Yes – in use by approximately 34,000 subscribers.	Not believed to be available at present (2003). Packet data may become available in 2-3 years.
Short Data Message (SDS)	Short data messages can be sent over the Transcomm Network.	Yes – SDS similar to GSM SMS.
Wide Range of Data Solutions	Yes with over 50 active partners providing data solutions.	Mainly limited to SDS at this time.
Data Experience	Extensive support for developers and integrators of data applications based on over 10 years experience	Limited
IP connectivity	Yes	Yes
OEM Modems	Yes	No
Telemetry and customised data terminals	Yes	No
Voice	No. Enables customers to use separate network for voice for additional resilience and redundancy.	Yes, with voice features for PMR and Emergency Service users. Voice has priority over data in TETRA networks.
Circuit Data	No.	Yes.
Security	Certified for use by Police in UK.	mmO2 Airwave certified for use by Police in UK.
Service Guarantees	Service Level Agreements (SLAs) as standard. Enhanced SLAs tailored to customer needs. No risk of other traffic being given higher priority.	• mmO2 Airwave provides separate "Service Performance Specifications" for voice and data services to Emergency Services customers. • Dolphin does not appear to provide SLAs. Voice has priority over data in TETRA networks.
Proven Technology	Proven technology used worldwide for over 10 years	• Dolphin available for voice since 1999 • mmO2 network at early deployment stage
In Use by UK Emergency Services	Used by over 55% of UK Police Forces, including the Metropolitan Police, and 7 Fire Brigades and 8 Ambulance Trusts, for wireless packet data services.	mmO2 Airwave used by 50% of UK Police Forces primarily for voice (November 2003).
Standardisation	Mobitex is a worldwide standard with over 30 Mobitex networks implemented worldwide.	TETRA is an ETSI standard.