SIMOCO CONNECTED COUNCILS

TAKING COUNCILS TO A CONNECTED DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

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The Connected Council
Introduction

Over the last several years, local governments have been challenged with budget cuts but at the same time provide high quality universal services. Digital communication technologies are no panacea but do provide part of the answer to the challenges faced by local authorities. There is a huge array of promising opportunities for councils from using predictive analytics, managing remote assets, and ensuring health and safety of their workforce and to it general constituents.

Unified mission critical communications have a key role to play in meeting these challenges through smarter and more efficient communications that deliver ubiquitous connectivity and seamless mobility to local councils and their key stakeholders. Many existing private communication systems used by councils no longer match up to these demands. Whilst commercial cellular network service might be viable for certain requirements, they do not provide the coverage areas or reliability required to underpin unified critical communications, especially in rural areas or at times of emergency or disaster.

Discover how Simoco Wireless Solutions can help transform these challenges by converging Land Mobile Radio (LMR) and Long Term Evolution (LTE) communication systems. This will take councils into a digital platform model which will help councils benefit from the possibilities of greater insights and analytics, greater data sharing within and outside councils to help make better informed decisions, interview at a much earlier stage, and harness collective intelligence to solve complex problems.

Overview of Connected Council technology

In an era of smart cities and connected infrastructure, local councils are faced with increasing volumes of data that can help streamline operations and drive greater efficiencies.

However, many local councils are attempting to use a mix of legacy systems and disparate technologies to manage these growing requirements. This can include analogue radio systems or public cellular networks, both of which provide a number of drawbacks from poor coverage to reduced reliability and limited security.

Increased efficiencies and cost reduction can be realised through the use of a resilient, scalable and secure communications network that also delivers digital voice communications, customised to meet your operational requirements.

A unique solution for local
councils

Over the last few years, evidence suggest that local authorities are pursuing interest in Internet of Things (IoT) technology solution deployments to help meet their goals on a tight budget. These include targets on improving social care, climate change and overhauling waste management, as councils continue to face increasing pressure from central governments on achieving these targets at scale. But how can IoT deployments be quickly rolled out and scaled to not just overcome these issues, but also surpass them?

The use of technologies such as IoT and other advanced technologies such as edge computing can enable local authorities and councils to deliver better services and efficiently manage local infrastructure. Deploying these advanced technologies can dramatically bring down costs and spark innovation within local boroughs by providing vast amounts of actionable and insightful data. Amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, key challenges faced by local authorities and their economies and communities need to be managed through the transition from emergency response activity into long-term recovery support.

Velocity, an intelligent communications device provides local councils a platform complemented to provide a solution for high speed, reliable communications with broadband bandwidth and low latency. Additionally, LMR provides great coverage and reliable instant two-way voice communications. GPS, Man down and lone worker functionality provides increased occupational health and safety (OH&S) ensuring council workers are always kept safe.

Wireless solutions built to drive efficiency

All in one intelligent communication solution

Our solutions provide an affordable and best-in-class intelligent communications solution that consolidates all your devices and peripherals, providing your organisation with the reliability and resilience it needs from a mission critical communication network.

Keep workers safe

GPS, Man down and lone worker functionality available on two-way radio communication equipment provides increased occupational health and safety (OH&S) ensuring workers are kept safe at all times.

Intelligent waste

Technology devices such as Velocity can help to overcome the challenge of waste efficiency by implementing sensors which not only show how full a bin is, but it can help to build a data profile to create an optimally efficient route to collect rubbish from the correct bins, at the right time. Also, these sensors can recognise possible issues, such as if a bin has fallen over or been moved, fly tipping, or if somebody has thrown something flammable into the container. Furthermore, IoT technology can also support third party contractors in pre-planning by providing insight into how much waste they will be accumulating, and when is the best time to collect the bins. Going forward, this could revolutionise payment models for contractors that are paid by weight, as well as help businesses predict revenue through real-time monitoring.

Announcements and signage

Digital signage, announcement boards and configuring announcements that work off announcement speakers can be configured providing local residents access to real time information on demand.

Real time video surveillance streaming

Our solutions rely on constant mobile connectivity which makes possible to monitor security from a remote location and alert authorities immediately when problems arise.

Flood monitoring

The increasing challenges of water management, both conservation and flood protection, pose increasing demands on monitoring and control systems. Enhanced telemetry communications enable councils to benefit from real-time monitoring, network optimisation, delivery of proactive maintenance programmes and the remote implementation of commands and updates in a variety of operational areas from transport to building management.

Centrally manage your fleet
Minimise one-off vehicle troubleshooting by monitoring, managing, and analysing connectivity and security issues from anywhere.

Real time monitoring, maintenance, and updates
Using Velocity Remote Manager allows firmware updates, configurations and maintenance to your wireless on board device from a remote location while ensuring that sensitive data stays safe.

Asset management
Local councils are responsible for high valuable assets across a number of sites. Velocity can significantly reduce maintenance costs by ensuring assets are monitored, managed, and analysed continuously before issues start to arise. Predictive maintenance can prevent asset downtime and help local council organisations stay ahead of expensive production losses.

Wireless bulk transfer
Need to offload large downloads without consuming lots of LTE data? Local authorities can configure a number of access points within Velocity for offloading large files to central building sites or depots with fixed gateways.

Network Security
Velocity is designed with security in mind and includes the use of advanced security protocols such as virtual private networks (VPN). Other security features include setting up Demilitarized Zones (DMZ), MAC filtering, IP filtering, port filtering and port forwarding provide a standards-based security solution for connecting and managing remote assets, enabling councils to guard against malicious access to sensitive data.

Fare collection
Local councils are responsible for managing fare collection through a number of payment machines. These machines require a continuous network connection to take payments. Payments can smoothly be taken with Velocity connected to the machines with its inherent continuous network connection.

Converged multi bearer platform
Velocity's multi bearer platform allows local councils to stay connected with a range of common communication networks such as LMR, LTE or even satellite communications transforming operations and constituent experiences. The beauty of Velocity is the aggregation of data managed on business rules, resulting in bandwidth efficiency.

Experienced in delivering communications solutions for local councils

Simoco Wireless Solutions have decades of experience and expertise in delivering communication solutions for local councils.

Toowoomba Regional Council

The Toowoomba region is located in the Darling Downs part of Queensland in Australia and has a population of around 166,000 people and covers a dense area of 13,000km². Toowoomba Regional council manage all major projects from the environment and community to planning and development, water and waste, transportation links and more.

As a Telstra strategic partner, Simoco has designed, installed, and provided maintenance for a 10 site DMR Tier III system. The DMR trunked system covers 13,000 km². Toowoomba is in the process of trialling the Velocity product which brings narrowband radio and broadband LTE together in a single platform. Using a Velocity hub, broadband applications can be extended within service vehicles or in the immediate vicinity to deliver these applications across the region.

Mornington Shire Council

Mornington is the northernmost and largest of 22 islands that form the Wellesley Islands group within the Gulf of Carpentaria. The island is home to the small community of Gununa with a population fewer than 1,200 people. Simoco Wireless Solutions has provided a new DMR Tier III trunked system for Mornington Shire Council, on Mornington Island. A new trunked system comprised of Simoco's leading distributed architecture provides a cost effective, resilient, and scalable solution for the island. For council workers on the island, the new solution provides enhanced worker safety with features such as duress alarm, lone worker, and man down alarms when staff visit council housing as well as aiding in the coordination of local disaster management.

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