EMERGENCY SERVICES
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Aerial eyes
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M2M for health
How M2M is aiding ambulance services in the Philippines and Western Australia
Kenwood and its local distribution partner Sectron have recently completed delivery of a country-wide installation of a Nexedge two-way radio system for the National Police Service in Bulgaria. James Atkinson reports

Police forces all over the world are moving their voice communication services from analogue two-way to digital. Bulgaria is no exception and back in 2008 it began the process of upgrading the analogue radio systems used by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Police Service (NPS) to a digital one. The MoI is an agency of the Ministry of the Interior, responsible for maintaining public order, investigating and counteracting crimes. Ivan Dimitrov, Director for Communications and Infrastructure Systems in the Ministry of the Interior (MoI), explains that the move was partly made in response to an EU directive. 

In 2005, the EU issued a directive to clear certain bandwidths so they could be released for other purposes. So, that prompted us with an opportunity to upgrade the NPS radio systems, says Dimitrov. He adds that the eventual move to an FDMA digital radio system using 2 x 6.25KHz channels from the previous 12.5KHz channels had the advantage of providing a much more efficient use of spectrum.

Mission requirements

While aspects such as cost, spectrum efficiency and the ability to enable better working for police officers were all important, Dimitrov points out that they were not necessarily the guiding principles behind the contract. 

Sectron guys and they in turn train the police. This is a regular service 

So, how are the Bulgarian Police finding the new system? Dimitrov says: ‘They are very happy with the quality of the equipment. Some of them have had it for up to three years now and there have been very few problems with the radios. No more than about five have needed repair and that was done very quickly.’ 

Weight points out: ‘It is very rare for us to have a QA problem. Our failure rate is less than 0.1% of our total global sales in terms of reported returns. Generally, it is for minor portables that have been dropped or immersed in water.’

The future

Looking forward, Dimitrov says one of MoI’s goals is to educate the police to make better use of the radio wider feature sets than just push-to-talk. ‘We are putting a lot of effort into this, as we believe it will increase the efficiency of their work.’

He also says the conventional radio sites deployed in the rural areas may be upgraded to either single or multi trunked sites to take advantage of the higher Nexedge security and encryption services that come with it – as is the case in Sofia.

Sectron guys and they in turn train the police. This is a regular service we and Sectron provide our customers.

Other ministries and government agencies are looking at what we have done and are very interested in it

Ivan Dimitrov, Director of Communications and Infrastructure Systems, Ministry of the Interior
NEXEDGE™ Expanding the Horizons of Digital Communications.

- **Mixed Mode:** The unique ability to communicate with all existing analogue equipment automatically
- **NXDN:** Crystal-clear communications and extended signal range
- **Control Channel Trunking:** Increased user capacity and more efficient use of radio frequencies
- **OTAP (Over The Air Programming):** For greater flexibility and easy customisation

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