



Public Safety

UK police goes wireless

In UK police officers on patrol can access crime records instantly, ambulances can transmit real time patient data to the hospitals and fire fighters are enabled to receive information about hazardous chemicals, building floor plans and map references while responding to an emergency. These are real life examples of mobile data access that Mobitex makes possible today. Many public safety companies have already implemented wireless communication in their business with impressive results.



The challenge

Some years ago Transcomm was awarded a framework agreement by the Home Office to provide mobile data services to the police and fire services until 2004. At the time Cleveland Constabulary, one of many police services using Mobitex technology, had one of UK's highest rates of offences per 100.000 in population.



Mobitex gives officers secure instant access to information in real-time and at the touch of a button



Between 1975 and 1995, recorded crime rose by 176%, while police strength increased by only 6,5%.

Throughout the U.K., police and fire services are today adopting wireless solutions on a broad scale. Transcomm and its partners have increased the number of solutions available and created custom solutions for police and fire services.

The solution

Mobitex is used for a variety of applications, including vehicle dispatch, status messaging and real-time access to the Police National Computer (PNC). Transcomm and its partners also provide live access to the Command and Control system and Crime Intelligence, Electoral Roll and Warrants databases, allowing real-time activity reporting and live incident log updates.

Officers can run live PNC checks from in-vehicle computer terminals, giving them information where and when it's needed. In one transaction, officers can access multiple databases giving secure instant access to information on stolen cars, wanted and missing persons, previous convictions and bail conditions, in realtime and at the touch of a button. Responses take just seconds and lack of radio congestion means more officers are making more checks. Activities are measured when it happens, recorded via status codes and transmitted, around the clock, straight to the Command and Control system without delays and risks of inaccuracy and unreliable data.

Maintaining radio silence is critical in many police surveillance operations. Yet, police still need to communicate with each other and access central information sources. Mobitex has solved this dilemma.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue, one of the UK's largest fire brigades is using the Transcomm

Mobitex network for vehicle and resource dispatch as well as live data transmission to and from vehicles and specialist equipment. The brigade can now send its crews a much greater volume of detailed information than was previously possible. Detailed information on hazardous chemicals, building floor plans, map references and information on the location of hydrants can all be transmitted via Mobitex, along with information on how to reach an address. Today more than 50% of all Police forces in UK are using the Transcomm Mobitex network for real-time database access. Nine months after adopting the service the Cleveland Constabulary had improved dispatch and arrival times by 61% and the response to road traffic accidents by 29%. Furthermore they have been able to accommodate up to 10% growth without extra resource and have seen a 4% reduction in mileage across the fleet.



Nine months after adopting the wireless service, they had improved dispatch and arrival times by 61%



The Benefits

More effective use of officers' time, lack of radio congestion means that more officers are making more checks and they do not need to wait for information.

Vehicle dispatch is faster, more accurate and more secure than voice radio.

Access multiple databases in one transaction giving secure instant access to greater volume of detailed information in real-time and at the touch of a button.

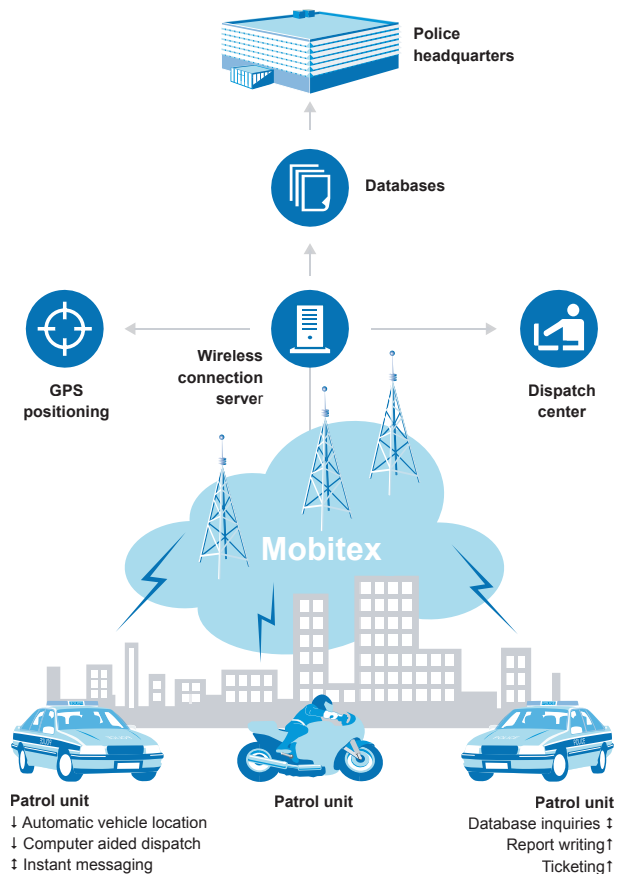
More efficient use of patrol cars thanks to a GPS automatic vehicle locator providing exact information on where patrol cars are at any time.

Higher arrest rates – Increase in revealing traffic violations and detention of more offenders as the information comes instantly when and where it's needed.

Decrease in time and cost in administration and unnecessary paperwork as well as automated and more efficient activity reporting.

Decrease in training times – from a five-day police national computer course to less than two hours hands-on.

Communication without breaking radio silence in surveillance operations.



Why Mobitex

Operational need for highly reliable data transmissions led to the choice of Mobitex for communication leaving competition behind as seen as the best place to handle both mobile and fixed parts of their system. Key criteria also included availability in terms of coverage, fast response times, cost efficiency and guaranteed high network capacity also during peak hours. Those are all key features in Mobitex.

Facts about Mobitex

Mobitex is an advanced wireless data-only network, with very high reliability and security, designed for transmission of short, bursty data. Originally developed by Telia AB and manufactured and sold by Ericsson AB, Mobitex is now controlled by an independent organization, Mobitex Technology AB based in Gothenburg, Sweden. Mobitex Technology develops, sells and supports the technology worldwide.

Mobitex has a number of key advantages. It provides the highest level of reliability, fast data delivery, always-on and true push functionality and extensive seamless coverage. Mobitex' scalable nature makes it an excellent choice for both large, nationwide networks and small privately owned networks covering a manufacturing plant or a city. Mobitex is today widely deployed, delivering industry leading performance in terms of connectivity and cost-efficiency to public safety organizations and other professional users on all continents.