BEYOND WIRELESS

Trends Interesting Deployments Business Impact

CANOPY
Motorola Wireless Broadband Platform

How video over Internet protocol (IP) saves minutes that matter during 911 emergency dispatches in a North Carolina community.

The Problem: *Emergency vehicles prevented from reaching their destinations by trains running through the middle of town.*

The Solution: *A wireless video solution with video over IP using six cameras with video servers installed at intersections, monitoring the railroad tracks. Motorola Canopy® access points are installed on the 911 tower with Canopy subscriber modules at the camera locations. www.coastalelectronics.com. www.newbern-nc.org. www.motorola.com/canopy. www.connectwithcanopy.com.*

The Result: *The ability to monitor railroad tracks efficiently and inexpensively, thus ensuring efficient dispatch of emergency vehicles.*

Background

Railroad tracks run through the center of historic New Bern, N.C . Normally not a problem, this can pose potential life-threatening challenges during 911 emergency dispatches. On several occasions, emergency vehicles have been prevented from reaching their destination by a train blocking their path. When this occurred, emergency vehicles from other locations then had to be quickly dispatched to the emergency. "Those few minutes can make a big difference in a life or death situation," says Ralph Southerland, senior systems technologist with Coastal Electronics, Inc, a wireless systems solutions provider serving eastern North Carolina since 1949. New Bern Fire Chief Bobby Aster and New Bern Police Department's Lieutenant John West requested a meeting with Coastal Electronics to discuss options for solving the problem. Deciding on a wireless video system with Canopy products plus cameras with video servers, the departments had two cameras installed at each of three intersections with vies "up and down the tracks". With video delivered to the 911 Center, dispatchers can tell at a glance whether a train is near or at an intersection. A dedicated server displays video on two monitors and allows recording of all video streams. A wireless mouse allows dispatchers to control the camera views from their console positions. "With Canopy access points on the 911 tower and subscriber modules at the six camera locations, we arrived at an inexpensive and efficient solution," says Southerland. He added that since the original deployment, New Bern has added wireless access to several locations," and that "the Canopy system is the backbone for the current mobile data system." They were still able to assure delivery of the other data traffic in the Canopy System because of Canopy's ability to run video over IP in a protected bandwidth mode. Chief Aster reports that they are looking into expanding the system. Plans include monitoring a drawbridge and a train bridge across the Trent River for water emergencies and monitoring of water traffic for security purposes.

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Beyond Wireless is a mini case study that is intended to illustrate a unique deployment of Motorola's MOTOwi4 Canopy wireless broadband technology. Our goal is to highlight applications depicting the evolution of wireless broadband technology that connects people to people and people to devices.

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