

SIMOCO OFFERS SCALABLE SIMULCAST IP INFRASTRUCTURE WITH LAUNCH OF NEW SOLAR 2



8 March 2011



Radio communications specialist Simoco has announced the launch of its Solar 2 Simulcast over IP system – which provides compact integration of the Solar range of products into a single, modular based 1U chassis with enhanced functionality and lower cost of ownership.

Building on the plug and play principles of the Solar range of Digital IP Simulcast and Voting solution, Solar 2 offers enhanced resilience options for Traffic Manager and Voting functionality, in addition to full remote management of base station network interfaces.

The simplified deployment and reduced ownership costs of Solar 2 have been designed to support a wide range of regimes, while also extending the Solar Simulcast franchise to dealers and customers previously excluded by the complex delay and phasing characteristics of analogue simulcast.

Andy Grimmett, Chief Technical Officer at Simoco Group, says: "Simulcast technology enables duplication of channels throughout a wide area network without interference. Through Solar 2, Digital VoIP signals are now fundamentally better defined and more consistent than their analogue counterparts, which enables the synchronisation task to be 'processor controlled'; eliminating the time consuming engineering processes. Without the need for expensive and specialised test equipment, the self-defining and self-managing Digital Simulcast system can be deployed simply and cheaply wherever channel duplication is required."

The Solar 2 solution can accommodate up to 256 base stations of the same channel frequency in a single system, with the standard off the shelf model set to handle 32 channels. A single system is also able to synchronise multiple duplicated frequencies, ensuring comprehensive digital IP simulcast network management, regardless of the size and complexity of customers' requirements.

Ian Carr, Chief Executive of Simoco Group, comments: "Simulcast technology has for many years been viewed as a 'Black Art'; one that requires special skills and expensive technical support and equipment to manage. Solar 2 Simulcast over IP completely breaks the mould. By simplifying the technology and reducing ownership costs we are able to extend the benefits of Simulcast techniques to the broadest possible user network based on need rather than capability to finance and support."

Further features of the Solar 2 include: a low bandwidth of 64Kbps per Network Interface and low latency of 65ms a minute; full audio bandwidth to support high voice quality and the transfer of signalling tone; integral RSSI voting for best received signal selection; and Traffic Manager Multi channel support, SNMP monitor and control redundancy options.

Solar 2 is a Simoco 'Dalman Inside' product. As the UK subsidiary to Australian company ComGroup, Dalman was acquired by Simoco in the summer of 2009 and its specialised Simulcast products are identified by the 'Dalman Inside' logo throughout the Simoco product range.

The Solar 2 is the second Simulcast over IP product to be launched in the Solar range, with the Solar first launched in 2007. The Solar system has to date been deployed throughout the UK, Europe, Australia and South Africa and the US States of California, Nevada, Virginia, North Carolina and in key Mission Critical sectors including Police, Fire, Nuclear Power, Oil & Gas and Transport."