

QRT Case Study - Globecomm Systems Inc.

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During the calendar year of 2004 Globecomm system was awarded three telecommunications projects from the Afghanistan Ministry of Communications. The first project was the Government Communications Network (GCN). This project is an expansion of the existing Government Communications Network. The new expanded network will significantly enhance the Afghanistan government's ability to communicate throughout the country. The network will connect remaining Ministries and government offices currently not served. In addition, the network will expand the capacity for voice, data, and Internet services for all government facilities. For this project Globecomm is supplying a state of the art, IP packet based network. The second project awarded to Globecomm was the District Communications Network (DCN). This network expands the capacity for voice, data, and Internet services for the Districts throughout Afghanistan. The third project awarded to Globecomm was the "Rehabilitation of the Satellite Earth Station" Project. The purpose of this project is to rebuild an international gateway in Kabul. The gateway will be capable of transmitting international voice and data traffic as well as video.

In the midst of being awarded these projects Globecomm was approached by the MOC and asked to support an additional effort. The MOC had awarded and was in the process of having CDMA switches installed in 9 locations throughout Afghanistan. The switches were being installed in Kabul, Lashkar Ghar, Khost, Kunduz, Pul e Khurmi, Sherbergen, Faizabab, Ghanzi, and Taloqan. The switches were intended to provide fixed wireless local loop services in these regions. The problem is there was currently no interconnectivity and no international connectivity. Globecomm stepped in and agreed to provide the assets to deliver these services. The project became known as the Quick Reaction Terminals (QRT). Globecomm designed and provided VSAT terminals at each of these locations. The system was designed in a Star configuration with all traffic routed through Kabul. International traffic is carried from Kabul through the Hong Kong Teleport. The system uses an IP based architecture.

The network was completed in a three month period. Globecomm began delivering the service by mid October 2004. On November 6, 2004 Globecomm received a letter of congratulations from the Afghanistan Minister of Communications, the honorable Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai. In part the letter read, "GSI – USA supported by the Ministry of Communications in bringing the VSAT equipment from the USA in the shortest possible time and the GSI team in Kabul worked day and night in deploying the network and integrating the same with MOC's CDMA Switch Network in all these cities".