Out of the Woods with Advanced Connectivity

A Sierra Wireless® Remote Connectivity Solution

CUSTOMER CRITICAL CHALLENGE
- To provide reliable broadband internet connectivity in remote locations without landline services

SOLUTION
- Sierra Wireless® AirPrime® MC Series Embedded Wireless Module

BENEFITS
- High-speed connectivity
- Reliability and continuity in harsh and varied environments
- Improved fringe performance thanks to the antenna diversity
- Network compatibility
- Easy integration

BACKGROUND
NetComm develops fixed and mobile broadband technologies covering HSPA+, LTE, machine-to-machine (M2M) and fiber access devices for home, business and industrial applications. The company specializes in designing rugged 3G and 4G products to provide reliable data communications for resource hungry applications in areas such as forestry.
Business Challenge

NetComm was approached by WA Plantation Resources (WAPRES), a major player in the Australian wood fiber industry, to provide broadband Internet connectivity in remote locations without landline services. The Western Australian based company exports around one million tons of woodchips to Japan every year and manages thousands of hectares of sustainable bluegum plantations across the south-west of the state.

The difficulty for WAPRES staff at some of the remote facilities was that they lacked reliable access to secure centralized applications hosted from the main office in Bunbury.

“The challenge was to provide access to centralized applications from remote forestry facilities with no ADSL connection. ISDN infrastructure was considered, but this solution was far from ideal for the sort of data throughput required. The answer arrived in the form of the Telstra Turbo™ Gateway for a fast, flexible and reliable connection,” said David Stewart, Managing Director, NetComm.

The Telstra Turbo™ Gateway turns a single 3G wireless broadband service into a WiFi and Ethernet hotspot, allowing users to share connections. It uses the Telstra Next G™ network to connect remote locations, thanks to the AirPrime embedded wireless module.

Sierra Wireless AirPrime® Solution

WAPRES operations are spread across a wide geographic area that includes: seed orchards, nurseries, managed plantations, wood chipping facilities and port operations. With easy integration and high-end functionality being essential to optimum 3G connectivity across a number of remote locations, NetComm selected Sierra Wireless and its AirPrime MC Series embedded wireless module for its Telstra Turbo™ Gateway.

The AirPrime module is certified on the Telstra Next G™ network and is a proven solution in Australia. It can be integrated seamlessly within the Gateways that were installed at the WAPRES facility in Manjimup. Staff gained access to Telstra’s IPWAN service which provided a secure network on which to interface with the firm’s business applications.
Results

The customer benefited from data speeds that dramatically outperformed the old ISDN solution while enjoying instant and reliable connectivity in a remote area located on the edge of network coverage without access to a fixed line connection.

As a result of the successful partnership, WAPRES employed the Gateway to connect other isolated locations they operate in, and is considering further deployment of the wireless device.

About Sierra Wireless

Sierra Wireless is building the Internet of Things with intelligent wireless solutions that empower organizations to innovate in the connected world. We offer the industry’s most comprehensive portfolio of 2G, 3G, and 4G embedded modules and gateways, seamlessly integrated with our secure cloud and connectivity services. OEMs and enterprises worldwide trust our innovative solutions to get their connected products and services to market faster. Sierra Wireless has more than 950 employees globally and operates R&D centers in North America, Europe, and Asia.

For more information, visit www.sierrawireless.com.