

Bemobile launches new Solomon Islands network with Huawei

- Energy-efficient deployment completed in record time

Honiara, Solomon Islands, August 31, 2010: Bemobile has today launched a new mobile network built in record time using Huawei technology. The network, which will initially cover 25% of the Solomon Islands population, was built in less than 3 months using an energy-efficient Huawei solution set to save Bemobile hundreds of thousands of dollars in OPEX costs per year – and in a strange twist, led Huawei staff to uncover a cache of unexploded ordinance leftover from the second World War.

Huawei acted as the end-to-end network supplier for the Bemobile network build, which consists of 20 Huawei DBS-3900 Base Stations, 18 Huawei Microwave backhaul hubs, and 2 Core Network sites containing Huawei's Radio Network Controller (RNC) and Value-Added Services (VAS) solutions. The entire deployment, including the physical construction of 2 core network buildings and the 20 greenfields Base Station sites, was completed in under 12 weeks. Huawei's solution will allow Bemobile to offer both 2G and 3G mobile services on the same equipment.

"Huawei's energy-efficient network will dramatically reduce Bemobile's OPEX costs thanks to some clever engineering," said Huawei's Project Manager Brett Seriani. "Bemobile's network will not depend on the national electricity grid, but will use DC generators which have been shown to be up to 100 times as energy efficient as AC power, which is more common in the Solomon Islands. The end result: Huawei calculates that Bemobile will see an OPEX drop of over SBD\$80,000 per site, per year."

The local community also benefited from Huawei's involvement in the build, with Huawei engineers training local staff on the technical aspects of network propagation, RF planning, and microwave design.

In an unusual twist, Huawei staff discovered an aging weapons cache containing unexploded ordinance from WWII during a routine network installation. "We found 6 RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades], 2 hand grenades, 65mm missiles and a 2,000 pound bomb within 400m of a network switch location," Seriani said. To ensure the safety of the local community and staff, an explosives expert was called in from Afghanistan to detonate the volatile weapons in a secure location – with the 2,000 pound bomb said to have an impact wave of 2km.

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About Huawei

Huawei is a global leader in providing next generation telecommunications networks, and now serves 45 of the world's top 50 operators, along with over one billion users worldwide. In 2008, Huawei was ranked as the world's number 1 patent applicant by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), with 1,737 applications published in a single year. The company is committed to providing innovative and customised products, services and solutions. Visit www.huawei.com.au for more information.

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