

Technology that works for you by....

DELIVERING CRITICAL RESOURCES TO THE OPERATIONAL ARENA, ANYTIME—ANYWHERE.

Key Benefits

- Rapid **deployment** in any location
- Low cost to implement
- Less complex
- Improved working conditions
- Flexible
- Effective
- Proven during Floods of 2007

We asked Rob Lacey of Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Services,

“What are the benefits of Trailer based Satellite Broadband?”

The use of broadband satellite Internet has become increasingly accepted within UK emergency services since Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue introduced the first system in 2003. Since then, the market has grown to include many different equipment options and tariffs across several providers. Whilst connectivity and equipment options carry implications of their own, one of the most important decisions that must be taken when introducing satellite connectivity is how the system should be delivered to the scene.

There are three main options available, and it is fair to say that one solution will not meet all requirements. These three options are Vehicle integrated, Trailer mounted and Manually deployed.

Vehicle integrated and trailer mounted systems share the same hardware, just fitted to different platforms. Manually deployed systems (also known as 'flyaway') can provide the same connectivity, but require some degree of assembly and placement.

Vehicle mounted systems are usually installed on command vehicles, and are best included as part of the initial build. The inclusion of such equipment can greatly influence the layout, electrics, physical dimensions and available interior space. It will certainly affect the cost of provisioning a new command vehicle.

An alternative to a vehicle-integrated system is a trailer-mounted installation. These have considerable benefits that any organisation would want to consider, and some of these are discussed further below.

Benefits of trailer mounted systems.....Reduced implementation cost

A significant benefit of trailer-mounted systems is greatly reduced implementation cost. There are often vehicles available within an organisation that can be used to tow a trailer, and compared to adding satellite systems to a vehicle, adapting a trailer has minimal outlay. For a basic solution, a small box trailer with a strengthened roof is perfectly adequate, and all that needs adding is a small data rack, a power source in the form of batteries and inverter, and the satellite equipment. More elaborate installations could involve trailers or deployable modules that are themselves mobile offices. Using a trailer mounted satellite system can allow connectivity to be implemented where otherwise it may have been considered too costly.