



Primetech's groundbreaking MultiPod flexible, multi-role storage system will be on show at the Emergency Services Show. It is shown here on a Mitsubishi utility vehicle with the lightweight MultiPod COBRA firefighting system

How Primetech's solutions are supporting faster, more effective response, and enhancing public and emergency worker safety

Primetech will be showcasing the full range of its advanced emergency support solutions at the Emergency Services Show this year, including the recently launched, lightweight MultiPod® COBRA firefighting system and a new multi-agency version of its Self Contained Communications Trailer developed for Irish local authorities and emergency services. Company director Henry Walker looks at some of the highlights

Primetech, the UK systems integrator and technology developer, will be maintaining its tradition of cutting edge technological innovation and leadership with its range of offerings at the Emergency Services Show this September (stand G13). There will be a mixture of recent technologies and solutions for visitors to learn about (including information on the groundbreaking new lightweight MultiPod COBRA lance and misting firefighting system and the MultiPod demountable storage system), as well as proven solutions such as the MultiNet Comms integrated incident ground communications system.

Also being showcased will be a new and more powerful multi-agency version of the Primetech Resilient Communications Trailer - known as the Self Contained

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Communications Trailer – that has been created for a consortium of local councils and emergency services based around Dublin in the Republic of Ireland.

The Self Contained Communications Trailer will be fulfilling a requirement in the Eastern Major Emergency Management Region of the Republic of Ireland for a communications trailer that contains a range of high power communications systems to support multi-agency operations. It includes a C-COM Ka-75 iNetVu Ka-band mobile satellite broadband system, incident ground Wi-Fi and an eight-metre mast capable of supporting a wide range of different frequencies and radio systems – UHF, VHF, TETRA – plus VoIP, digital television, satellite phones etc. All of these systems, plus a silent running generator, are being housed in a robust, waterproof, long-life co-polymer pod (a variation on the Primetech MultiPod) carried on a trailer that can be towed by non-specialist vehicles and drivers, both on- and off-road.

The Self Contained Communications Trailer has multi-agency interoperability built into its DNA. All participating emergency services and local authorities have provided input into its specification and development, and all will be able to use its features and receive its benefits. This fits with the drive throughout the UK and Ireland for improved multi-agency cooperation, something that depends heavily on the provision of powerful, high quality interoperable communications systems and affordable platforms. Many emergency services are now looking at specifying similar units for their own fleets.

Primetech has built its reputation as a key high tech supplier to the UK emergency services by identifying the latest, most promising and future-proof new emergency response technologies from around the world (as well as designing and developing them itself), and then adapting and integrating these technologies into even more powerful and useful systems.

But the emergency sector is not the only field in which the company operates. In recent years it has been installing a large number of C-COM Ka-band secure mobile satellite broadband systems in the financial services sector. It has done this so successfully that it is now the largest provider in Europe of satellite systems for mobile financial services.

Primetech’s radically new lightweight MultiPod COBRA system, has been developed in collaboration with our Swedish partner Cold Cut Systems. This is an ultra-lightweight version of the popular and proven COBRA lance-based firefighting system which provides fire and rescue services, including retained services, with a powerful new weapon for suppressing fires. The system has the key benefit of allowing fires to be reached and tackled at greater speed as a result of the COBRA unit being reduced in size and weight, allowing it to be carried on utility-style vehicles

This allows the firefighting power of the COBRA system to be used to respond to fires before larger appliances arrive at the scene of incidents in accordance with Pre-Determined Attendance protocols. In rural communities, which rely on retained crews and which have greater distances and less accessible areas to be reached, MultiPod COBRA can also offer significant benefits – speed of initial response and all-terrain access.

Using a mixture of aggregate and water, the COBRA system first allows a firefighter to penetrate through a building wall using concentrated high pressure and it can then force tiny droplets of misted water into the fire space, reducing the temperature of fire gases and extinguishing the fire. Not only does the system give firefighters a powerful tool for faster suppression of fires, but by allowing firefighters to remain outside the building it also enhances firefighter safety.

The effectiveness of the system has been demonstrated in numerous independent scientific studies. The very fine droplet size of misted spray (170 micrometres in diameter versus 900 micrometres for other water systems) means that the COBRA system uses 100 per cent of water sprayed versus much less for other systems. A smaller vehicle with a crew of two or three can respond to an emergency call far quicker, and can either resolve the incident or stabilise the situation until reinforcements arrive.

The Primetech MultiPod vehicle is equipped with the MultiPod® COBRA firefighting system on an up to 300 bar system, allowing for a safe external attack on a building fire. The MultiPod COBRA can suppress the fire and prevent



CAD prototype illustration of the multi-agency Self Contained Communications Trailer being supplied to a consortium of local authorities and emergency services in the Eastern Major Emergency Management Region in the Republic of Ireland



the incident from deteriorating. This vehicle can also carry medical equipment, allowing a first response to medical emergencies where an ambulance may take longer to arrive.

Primetech's MultiPod is another example of a ground-breaking system exclusive to Primetech. One of the unique features of Primetech's new MultiPod demountable body system is that no vehicle modifications are required. MultiPod can be easily and quickly mounted on any standard utility vehicle. The system fits in with the drive for increased levels of collaboration between the emergency services. It also helps to improve public safety in an era of tighter budgets, and supports the drive for diversified, expanded and more effective use of service resources. The MultiPod's numerous compartments and internal sliding shelf system allow a wide range of single and multi-agency/combined agency equipment to be stored for easy access and use.

The MultiPod can be used to carry the MultiNet Comms family of modular, integrated incident ground communications solutions housed in a series of portable, ruggedised cases. The system, using both mains and battery power, delivers Ka-band mobile satellite broadband plus video, voice and internet access over a COFDM Mesh Wi-Fi network along with 3G/4G, and private cellular

networks and interoperable communications, plus live-streamed body-worn, tripod and drone imagery. MultiNet Comms supports enhanced situational awareness and improved multi-agency interoperability.

During 2017 the Primetech team worked closely with its partners – satellite operator Avanti and satellite receiver manufacturer C-COM – to develop a unique new solution that allows two satellites to be accessed through one satellite receiver dish instead of two. This is a technological breakthrough that is of great interest across a wide variety of emergency response sectors because it can deliver increased communications resilience during critical events. The system was first used in action, very successfully, to provide media coverage support for an off-road expedition across remote and mountainous areas in Scotland, and that was reported on by Top Gear and other leading motoring media.

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The MultiPod system can be supplied in a variety of different configurations, depending on the role and equipment to be carried. It is seen here with the MultiNet Comms portable integrated incident ground communications system

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