Gigabit Radios Power Video Surveillance for 2009 Presidential Inauguration

By Bridgewave Communications, Inc. and Connectivity Solutions, Inc.

In January 2009, more than one million people witnessed President Barack Obama's historic inauguration in Washington, D.C. Ensuring security for such a high-profile event was a challenge for local and national security agencies such as the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, FBI, CIA, Secret Service and National Guard. Given the level of security required, and the enormous area to cover, it was critical for these agencies to utilize video surveillance cameras around the city in order to monitor and track suspicious activity.

Linking the vast amount of high-resolution video traffic from digital IP-based cameras to law enforcement monitoring stations required a solution that could handle the demanding bandwidth requirements, provide unprecedented security and reliability, and be easily deployed in a short period of time. Locations for installing the radios were in highly protected government areas with limited access, and the inauguration was only 10 days away—circumstances that added to the complexity of the installations.

Relying on ultra-high capacity Gigabit Ethernet radios to backhaul traffic was essential. It was then that Washington's law enforcement agencies turned to Connectivity Solutions, Inc., a veteran-owned, Virginia-based, value-added reseller specializing in the design and deployment of wired and wireless solutions.

Tasked with obtaining adequate bandwidth to link copious amounts of video surveillance traffic to law enforcement monitoring stations, CSI looked to TESSCO to provide BridgeWave Communications' gigabit Ethernet radios for the backhaul network. With an extremely condensed timeframe, CSI realized there was only one company that could support a deployment of this magnitude and scale. With a long-term relationship of exemplary service on many other "highprofile" projects, CSI knew that TESSCO was their only solution.

BridgeWave was selected over competing products due to highcapacity links offering superior reliability and flexibility. By using the AR80 and AR80X wireless Gigabit Ethernet links, CSI was able to capitalize on both systems' ability to provide fiber-like performance at a fraction of the cost. In addition, low-cost licensing and the overall compact design made it easy to quickly deploy, and to manage CSI's deployment team.

The project proved even more challenging when it was realized that the required equipment was spread out coast to coast, and ultimately did not arrive until five days prior to the deadline. "Our team provided the city with an advanced video surveillance wireless backhaul solution for this momentous occasion in large part due to BridgeWave's robust products. Their gigabit wireless links never experienced a hiccup while easily handling the real-time demands of video surveillance traffic," explained Andy Mortenson, president at Connectivity Solutions, Inc.

CSI set up two BridgeWave AR80 links and two AR80X links on various rooftop and towermounted locations, spanning a range of one to three miles. Despite having to uninstall existing equipment from towermounted and rooftop locations to make room, and then install the new radios in inclement weather, CSI had the entire solution up and running in less than 10 days. CSI credits the "can-do" attitudes of the teams at TESSCO and BridgeWave for making this project the success it was.

When the inauguration activities were underway, the cameras operated flawlessly, garnering high praise from law enforcement officials, ultimately empowering security agencies to be more vigilant than ever before.

For more information on BridgeWave's Gigabit Ethernet outdoor wireless connectivity solutions, visit http://www.tessco.com/go/bridgewave.