Secure data services for public safety

Which role should TETRA operators have?

Many European TETRA operators are planning mobile broadband data services to serve government and public safety customers. Ready for new bandwidth hungry mobile applications, these services are based on a Secure MVNO (Mobile Virtual Network Operator) model. This allows mobile data services to be provided by using commercial mobile networks, while offering the secure information access that governments need.

New mobile data applications are intended to achieve more with less - better operational results for public safety organizations at lower cost. Societies are also looking for better protection of people and property, as well as improved safety for front line officers. Police officers need timely and accurate local information in order to be more visible in the community.

All this needs to be done with less money by making operations more efficient, allowing officers to spend more time in the field and less in the police station. This can be achieved with new mobile data applications, turning the police vehicle into a mobile office.

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Secure MVNO: A new mobile data service for TETRA operators

To achieve more with less – better operational results, better protection of people and property, and improved safety for front line officers – all this demands a highly capable data service. It has to be fast, secure and reliable, and it also needs to offer enough capacity. Although today's TETRA networks can deliver on the first three needs, they do not offer the capacity to support the new breed of bandwidth-hungry apps.

Yet, many things may prevent the rapid deployment of new dedicated broadband networks for public safety. Perhaps no radio spectrum is available, or governments face limits on investments or can only justify them once new networks can provide the same performance as today's TETRA networks.

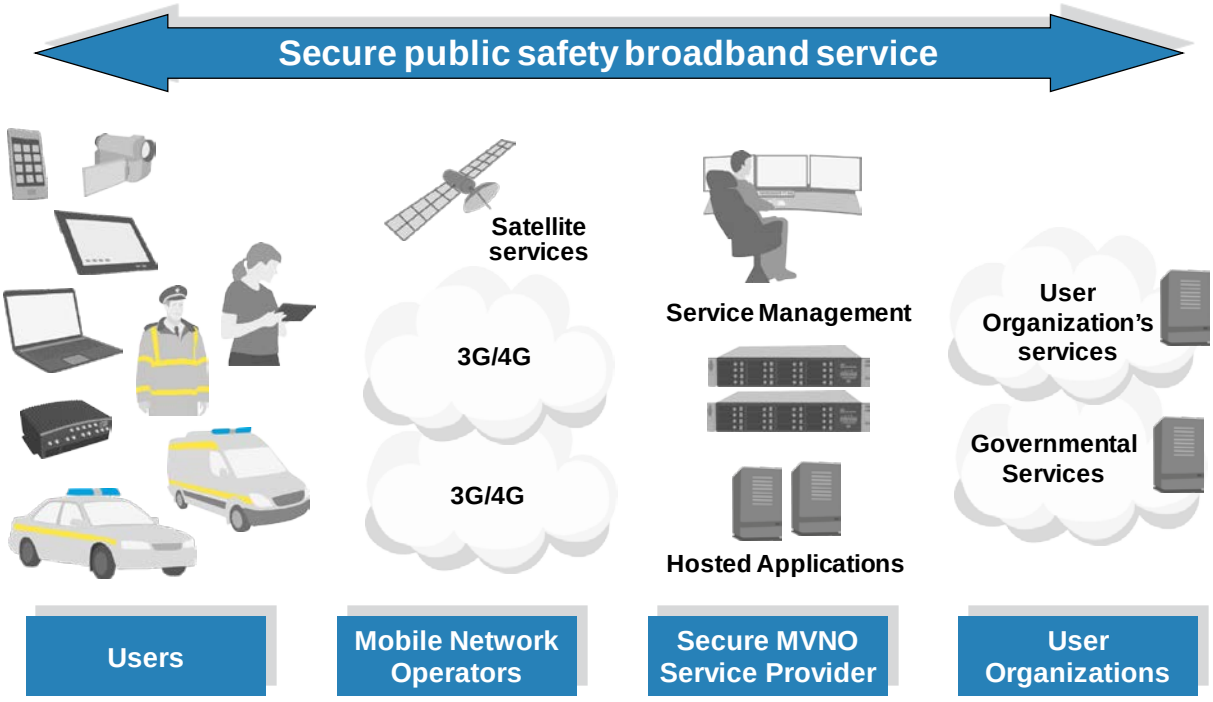
Commercial network, public safety performance

The Secure MVNO concept meets these challenges, complementing existing public safety networks by using commercial mobile networks for data.

Yet, how can commercial mobile networks meet mission-critical requirements? The Secure MVNO solution offers the best of both worlds, providing commercial network characteristics while meeting public safety needs. The result is uncompromised security and multi-network availability for mobile data applications.

One network is not enough

Officers in the field come to rely on their mobile apps, which in turn depend on a mobile data service that is fast, secure and reliable. The Secure MVNO solution can use several commercial networks in parallel, making the service highly reliable. If the service of one network suffers a problem, another network can take over. Satellite connections can also be used for extended coverage or additional capacity, for example, in the case of major accidents.



European TETRA operators are becoming Secure MVNOs

Many European TETRA operators are becoming Secure MVNOs. Following the existing TETRA service model, this entails one operator providing mission-critical communications services to all public safety organizations in the country. The network and other resources are shared by end-user groups and yet uncompromised security, integrity and high reliability are guaranteed. Users in the field enjoy turnkey access to a secure application cloud, with convenient and timely support when problems occur.

Centralizing brings substantial benefits

This centralized way of providing Secure MVNO services is a more beneficial way forward than each public safety organization making its own arrangements for using commercial mobile data services. The pluses include professionally managed security, economic benefits and new opportunities in data applications and their hosting. It is also easier to move to dedicated broadband capacity when the first step, the Secure MVNO, is managed by one organization.

Another benefit is the ability to achieve economies of scale by choosing among Mobile Network Operators and device vendors, maintaining buyer power in the marketplace.

The way to get uncompromised security

Using commercial networks opens a door for attacks, so a key element of a Secure MVNO is providing uncompromised service security. Cyber Security technologies, supported by the proper processes, skills and management, can monitor and mitigate anomalies in the core network and guard against security breaches.

A single, centralized solution for all subscribers and all networks cuts the need to enter the same information into several systems, leading to fewer errors and better security.

Overcoming investment limitations

With restrictions on investment, organizations are looking for alternatives to expensive software licences and hardware platforms. Many are considering SaaS (Software as a Service), in which instead of purchasing the software licences and servers, an organization pays a fee per month for each user. If a TETRA operator offers Secure MVNO services, it can offer applications hosting, cutting software costs for all end-user organizations.

The road to broadband

Secure MVNO is the step towards dedicated broadband capacity. It enables new kinds of applications, giving field users the chance to enjoy new functionalities. As dedicated broadband is introduced, new capacity or improved coverage can be offered. However, users can continue using the very same applications without any modifications. Investments in a Secure MVNO can also continue to be exploited as facilities develop.

Adding broadband capacity as a new service for public safety users allows the PMR operator to provide attractive new services, while also bringing in more revenue. It also safeguards the operator’s future in another way - without broadband, the PMR operator is at risk of becoming a voice-only services provider and losing its momentum to invest in services.

Secure data services for public safety over commercial networks

Get better results with less money

How a new mobile data service from TETRA operators can help achieve this

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