

Mobile connectivity improved in Republic of Mauritius

Gateway Communications, a supplier of pan-African telecommunications services, has provided connectivity solution to Emtel, for the remote islands of Agalega and Rodrigues, which form part of the Republic of Mauritius.



The Rodrigues Island lies 550km northeast of Mauritius with a population of about 35 000. The island contributes to the economy through a variety of sectors including tourism, fishing and agriculture. Effective mobile connectivity is needed in order to facilitate business-to-business communication and for general correspondence with the mainland.

The Agalega Island lies 1 122km north of Mauritius and has a population of less than 300 people. The island is self-sustaining, but residents utilise mobile communication for ordering supplies, for emergency situations and to stay in touch with their friends and family across the island archipelago.

Connecting the islands

The islands frequently experienced weak links and outages often brought on by bad weather. Emtel Ltd, a division of the Millicom International Cellular (MIC) group - approached Gateway Communications for a potential solution, which would deliver the most efficient voice and data connectivity to the residents of these islands.

Having a long standing relationship with Gateway Communications, Emtel was aware of the company's proven track record and flexible approach to connectivity; making Gateway the best choice to connect these remote locations to the mainland.

Through the innovative use by Emtel Ltd of CellDirect - Gateway's satellite cellular backhaul solution - the residents now have access to reliable and effective mobile communications. CellDirect is used to connect hard to reach base stations and is the ideal solution when addressing lower traffic density areas. This solution also results in capital and operational savings for the customer.

As noted by Emtel CTO, Paul Valette, it is an exciting time for the communities on the Agalega and Rodrigues islands. "Effective and affordable connectivity will enable them to improve socio-economic conditions. Staying connected in a globalised world has never been more critical."

"This project once again reiterates Gateway's ability to serve remote areas in Africa," says Mike van den Bergh, CEO of

Gateway Communications.

"Reliability, quality and coverage are key factors for mobile operators and internet service providers (ISPs), which made satellite the ideal communications technology for this project. Our experts understand the fundamentals of communications in Africa: it's what we do, and with so many new uses of satellite-enabled technologies on the way, we're confident that our improved satellite services will continue to play a vital role in pan-African connectivity for many years to come."

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