

### **Afghanistan – Tetrapol Network Installation**

A key defence sector client won a flagship project to install a full voice and data network for coverage across a major city in Afghanistan.

In order to fulfil their commitments, Shape Telecom was engaged to carry out all of the physical network build and design activities.

Afghanistan has been at war for at least twenty years and therefore has little service infrastructure as we know it. It is extremely hot and arduous in the summer months, coupled with biting sub zero winter conditions. There is a minority hatred for westerners coupled with a more general distrust. All of this, coupled with the complexities of the project aims, made the exercise a challenging event.

The technical solution provided was based on a Tetrapol network with LOS wide area connectivity and fibre local area connectivity. Switch and base station sites were located in predominantly in protected barracks, with one on a remote mountain top.

This project required an extremely strong project management structure and a flexible, multi skilled installation team.

Initial site surveys carried out by us proved Line Of Sight between locations and revealed numerous logistical challenges to overcome in order for the project to be a success. Clearly every nut, bolt and tooling would have to be transported to theatre to ensure that we would achieve this build within the customer's demanding time frame.

Based on the findings of our detailed survey, our design team set to designing relevant building and tower mounts for the fixing of all LOS and VHF antennas. This was then passed on for manufacture to our in house fabrication facility.

Upon completion all antennas, radios, cables, dishes, fibre electrical equipment steelwork and tooling was checked and checked again before being loaded for airfreight and transported to the airhead in Europe for onward despatch.

Our installation team dealt with every challenge and got all antennas up and all DLOS links commissioned with all sites fully built and handed over within the customer time scales.

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With continued success Shape have also been awarded the in theatre network maintenance contract which includes not only all sites both hardware band software but all radios and vehicle location equipment

Following the success of our project the end customer has since informed us of how impressed they are of “ **Our professional approach, performance and determination to deliver, both in and out of theatre** ”



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