



Motorola chooses APD Communications to supply mobile data services for London Underground Communications

Motorola forms part of a consortium that agreed the £1.2 billion CONNECT contract with LUL in November 1999 and has today formally announced that it has chosen APD as the sole supplier for both the train borne units and integrated control room software. Under the five year, multi million pound contract, APD will supply mobile communications units for all underground trains and provide control room software which will run using the latest TETRA Terrestrial Trunked Radio standards. TETRA enables combined voice and data communications so that drivers will be able to send and receive digital quality voice and short text messages. This will improve efficiency as drivers can both send and receive individual or broadcast messages and the control room can quickly re-deploy trains, thereby improving passenger flow and resolving disruptions more quickly. This operational efficiency and enhanced communications capabilities will benefit the 800 million passengers who travel on the Underground. APD will immediately begin designing the user interface for the on train device, taking into account the differing layouts of train cabs, ease of use, and clarity of display. The units will be designed to be easily removable for servicing and repair with the first installations being in mid 2001. "The Underground is quite a challenging environment for radio communications, with both electro-magnetic interference and vibration to contend with" explains Steve Walker, Managing Director of APD Communications. "Our expertise in building rugged devices that can handle these harsh conditions and our ability to work with customers to specify and design effective solutions are just two reasons why Motorola chose us as their partner." "Whilst London Underground is one of the first mass transit systems using the new TETRA standard to implement this kind of network, we have previously worked with Motorola on their implementations for the Hong Kong Mass Transit railway and for emergency control room systems for the Channel Tunnel," added Steve Walker. The APD supplied systems will allow real-time information exchange between trains, stations and depots. Each train will be monitored by an APD designed control room system, based upon its sector-leading CORTEX integrated control system. All the systems to be supplied form a part of the CONNECT project, key benefits of which are:- Integrated communications across all London Underground's depots, stations, trains and offices. Enhanced communications facilities from a fibre-optic network – customer information, short text messaging, video transmission, PC applications such as Internet access. Spare capacity in transmission network allows cellular mobile capability at station platforms and moving image advertising facility. Digital CCTV for added safety and improved emergency response.

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