

Overview

ICS Industries was approached by Telstra on behalf of the CFA to provide a temporary deployment solution for a Victorian based emergency radio network - the RMR (Regional Mobile Radio Network).

A key aspect of this project was to ensure all Victorian emergency services' networks were able to connect through a single exchange. ICS Industries engineered, manufactured and delivered a Cell on Wheels (COW) that could house both analogue and digital radio technologies.

The COW was designed to assist emergency services by reducing the load on telephone exchanges, and to supply temporary additional capacity during times of emergency.

Features

The bespoke design has several defining features catering for the specific needs of the CFA. Being a transportable solution, the design and engineering had to accommodate for varying environmental factors; namely weatherproofing and requirements for outdoor deployment.

The COW solution supplied incorporated a 12m Will-Burt pneumatic locking mast with a low 'nested' height so that it could be manoeuvred through limited access roads into chosen locations. A requirement of the RMR was that it could also accommodate the latest radio technology for several different users (three analogue and one digital). This was achieved by installing four 32RU equipment cabinets and clever cable management to create four independent zones.

Additionally, a safe working environment is provided for those deploying the COW in the field by way of a heavy duty work platform and access ladder as permanent structures on the trailer, thus enabling a safe and easy installation of Radio antennas before raising the mast.

Other features include:

- Equipment cabinets incorporating 19" racks
- Additional cabinets to provide storage for accessories
- Ease of accessibility of equipment
- DC power system
- Weatherproof cables
- 12m Will-Burt Pneumatic Locking Mast
- Electric Braking System
- LED Cabinet Lighting
- Platform lighting operating from DC Power



Outcome

One of the challenges ICS Industries faced during this project was achieving a towable trailer weight so transport would not require heavy vehicles. ICS ensured the trailer would fall under the weight restrictions, whilst housing radio technologies for four different users and providing sufficient storage for accessories.

The Statenet Mobile Radio COW is the first of its kind and capable of handling multiple emergency networks. ICS Industries has provided a trailer suitable for long term outdoor use which can be deployed using a standard 4WD vehicle.

