

| VHF/2 Metre Replacement | Emergency Services Digital Mobile Radio |
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| <p>2014 “Obsolete analogue radio system and repeaters” referred to in 57/14 is part of the island-wide VHF network, which is used by Emergency Services and the Camp community where there is no landline or mobile phone coverage. Network had been managed by KTV since the 1980s. KTV had been further given a contract in 2001 to manage Emergency Services VHF network. However, lack of investment by FIG and/or assumption that mobile coverage would render it obsolete, meant that the VHF/2M system had fallen into disrepair and was unreliable.</p> | <p>ExCo paper 57/14 requests replacement of “obsolete analogue radio system and repeaters” with Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) that provides secure, interoperable communications across Emergency Services. ExCo requests that interoperability is confirmed before approving.</p> |
| <p>2015</p> | <p>ExCo paper 39/15 requests approval for contract for DMR system to be given to sole tenderer, Sure South Atlantic (SSA). Total contract value is £242,680 in capital costs and £22,640 annually in operating costs. Approval is given. At some point, and against the advice of the contractor, a decision is taken to only invest in three repeaters for the system as opposed to six</p> |
| <p>2016</p> <p>As SSA is given contract for providing DMR system, KTV’s involvement with VHF network effectively ends. No party seemingly under contract to manage or repair VHF network.</p> | <p>DMR system is bought and rolled out.</p> |
| <p>2017</p> <p>MT Caroline VHF repeater on West Falkland becomes unserviceable. Ongoing complaints by Camp community and RBC.</p> | <p>The RFIP Chief of Police, who was leading the project, is suspended on an unrelated matter during the system’s roll-out. As the system begins to be implemented, several issues arise related to handsets, coverage, and training. Some handsets are replaced. At an users’ meeting designed to address the issues, SSA again stresses that the system coverage reliant on three repeaters only, and thus hindered. Members of the group, which include emergency services, say that they had not previously been made aware of the decision to cut the number of repeaters to six.</p> |
| <p>2018</p> <p>FIG decides to replace VHF network infrastructure.</p> | <p>Use of the system by emergency services largely limited to Stanley. Services remain reliant on mobile phones and VHF radio system.</p> |
| <p>2019</p> <p>Sure South Atlantic Ltd approached by FIG to provide costs of providing/ replacing VHF/2m network, no other contractor approached. Costs used to formulate put to Budget Select Committee, states that the VHF/2M system is used by emergency services when “Digital Mobile Radio System has no coverage or is</p> | <p>Use of the system by emergency services largely limited to Stanley. Services remain reliant on mobile phones and VHF radio system.</p> |

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| | <p>not working effectively.” Tender launched for the replacement of the system, no evidence for tender board or suitable dispensation available. Contract given to SSA at a value of £139,849 capital costs REDACTED annual maintenance and rental following ExCo paper 79/19</p> |
| <p>2020</p> | <p>Fire and Rescue service revert to VHF as main system of communications, with mobile phone and DMR system as backup. Only RFIP using the system regularly, and only in Stanley vicinity.</p> |
| <p>2021</p> | <p>Contract varied to include additional VHF station at Leicester Hill and additional hardware at Sussex Mountain as coverage fell short of initial predictions.</p> <p>DMR system manufacturer taken over, and new owner no longer bound to honour contract. System effectively becomes obsolete and RFIP/ Emergency Services begin to search for new system.</p> |