

'09 TETRA World Congress



TETRA World Congress took place 26-29th May in Munich and BAPCO Journal went along to find out the latest developments in all things TETRA. Here are some of the gadget highlights.



Sepura's STP8000 after withstanding temperatures nearing 400 °C during testing conducted by SINE, the Danish public safety network.

The next TWC will be held 24-27th May 2010 at the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Singapore. For more information visit www.tetraworldcongress.com. TWC 2010 will be co-located with the Critical Communications Congress, which will focuss on technologies for mission critical mobile communications above and beyond TETRA (see www.criticalcomms.com).

Over 2,600 attendees from all over the world, 181 speakers and 102 exhibition stands made TWC a successful event. The show coincided with the roll out of the German TETRA network, BDBOS (the world's largest TETRA network to date), meaning there was plenty to talk about for all visitors.

Airwave

Following international recognition of achievements in the UK, Airwave announced the foundation of a Hamburg-based operation form which it plans to develop new business opportunities in what will be one of the largest TETRA networks in Europe.

Airwave plans to work closely with local German partners to deliver technical and operational consultancy services as well as a portfolio managed service solutions for the 16 Lander regions. "We hope that our unique experience and expertise will be of value in Germany, helping to ensure the country's national system is delivered on time and to quality and budget," remarked Chief Executive Richard Bobbett.

Repeaters

Innovation in repeaters was a strong theme during TWC, with two companies launching innovative products.

Wireless coverage specialist Axell Wireless launched a digital TETRA SDR (software designed radio) repeater. The CSR438 digital channel selective repeater aims to provide quick, cost effective and secure radio coverage in any TETRA radio, and is designed to easily expand a base station's service area by filling in coverage gaps caused by terrain, buildings or tunnels. Axell CEO Ian Brown explained that while traditional hardware-based radio devices limited cross-functionality and could only be modified through physical intervention, SDR enabled new wireless features and capabilities to be added to existing radio systems through software upgrades rather than through a hardware upgrade. "It provides an adaptable platform that allows networks to be reconfigured rapidly to match new service and technology standards including the TETRA enhanced data system (TEDS) due to be launched later this year."

Finnish company Creowave launched its Hybrid repeater, also designed as a solution for extreme environments.

The Hybrid Repeater has been designed for present and future coverage enhancement solutions – and Creowave believes this technology will be viable after ten years.

Creowave TETRA hybrid repeater can be updated in the

field, reflecting the future radio channel allocations and continuous network development.

EADS

On show was EADS's new THR9 radio – a tough product with IP55 water/dust resistance and with DMO repeater functionality. Other features of the new THR9 include high battery capacity, Java MIDP 2.0, XHTML browser and integrated GPS receiver, all designed to be compatible with the Taqto smart terminal management tool.

A new mobile radio, gateway and repeater was also being launched by EADS – the GR990. Again compatible with EADS's Taqto management tool, the TGR990 can operate in three modes – as a radio, a gateway between trunked and direct mode operation, and as a DMO repeater.

Motorola

Motorola staff were all abuzz about the fact that it had now shipped over one million TETRA terminals to customers in over 90 countries – and they were convinced the new launches would help achieve million number two.

The MTP850S portable TETRA terminal for mission critical communications is based on the MTP850 model, with additional enhancements. The key safety features that the MTP850S incorporates are: "man down"; emergency button that alerts colleagues to critical situations and updates the officer's location; and standardised 12-pin side connector to ensure audio accessories remain connected at all times, even during violent altercations.

Motorola was also celebrating that it had won two tenders in the UK – Sussex Police and Cheshire Police – with TETRA radio devices (the MTP850 and the MTP800E).

Sepura

On the Sepura stand celebrations were also in order, following its first major order for TETRA radios for the state of Bavaria – the fourth German federal state to select Sepura radios within the roll out of the German TETRA BOS-net framework. The contract win for 7,800 radios (STP8000) and SRG3500 gateways was achieved in close cooperation with its German partner, Selectric Nachrichtensysteme GmbH.

The SRG3500 vehicle radios' gateway functionality means they act as relay points for both hand-held and other vehicle radios, extending the trunked network in areas of limited coverage – the exact scenarios expected during the BOS roll out.