



South Texas Electric Cooperative Upgrades 6GHz Microwave Network To 200Mbps Capacity with Unique Exalt Solution

Introduction

The South Texas Electric Cooperative (STEC), headquartered in Nursery, Texas, serves wholesale electrical power to eight member cooperatives, providing service to more than 150,000 members in 33 South Texas counties. STEC (www.stec.org) generates power from a variety of fuels, including lignite, natural gas, diesel and hydro-electric.



The Challenge

STEC was at near full capacity with the microwave radios they were using. Since they were rapidly expanding their power distribution network and adding more SCADA and Ethernet traffic in their communications infrastructure, they needed to increase Internet protocol (IP) capacity and throughput in their backhaul network and also add more T1 connections for data and voice transmissions. Specifically, they needed a solution that could augment the capacity of their 6GHz licensed DS3 backhaul links without costly infrastructure upgrades or downtime.

The Solution

Working with Exalt Communications, network integrator Infiniti Wireless (www.inifinitiwireless.com) deployed a unique Exalt solution for upgrading STEC's 6GHz Part 101 microwave links. The Exalt Capacity Expansion Kit, which is unprecedented in the industry and only available from Exalt, allowed Infiniti Wireless to install an Exalt EX-5i-16 system over the existing 6GHz transmission infrastructure and antenna systems with minimal impact to the licensed system. This resulted in an instant 16xT1 and up to 200Mbps upgrade in IP capacity with considerable savings to STEC, all without the need for any additional licenses.



Kyle Simeon, U.S. Sales Manager at Infiniti, said the Exalt Capacity Expansion kit "allowed for a quick solution and eliminated any downtime on the network."



The installation of the Exalt radios into the network was seamless and "the backhaul units are completely compatible with the existing network," said Warren Buchhorn, communication technician at STEC. "There are no need for new antennas, waveguide or transmission lines."

Exalt was chosen to meet STEC's challenge for a variety of reasons. "We had deployed Exalt backhaul radios at other sites, and we consider them to be a leader in the unlicensed wireless backhaul industry because of some of their technical capabilities and software features," said Buchhorn. "Exalt's Capacity Expansion Kit allowed us to deploy unlicensed 5GHz radios on top of our 6GHz links. Infiniti and Exalt Communications helped us find the solution, which we didn't even know was possible," said Buchhorn.



Why Exalt?

Exalt is focused on creating solutions for high capacity backhaul. At times these solutions include the expansion and upgrade of existing systems. "Due to our team's expertise and backgrounds in design and manufacturing of carrier grade microwave radio systems, we deeply appreciate the value that resides in existing infrastructure, and continually look for ways in which we can help our customers extend the life of their legacy systems," said Amir Zoufonoun, founder and CEO of Exalt. Not only does Exalt Communications offer a unique portfolio of latest generation wireless backhaul products, but Exalt also offers innovative solutions like the Capacity Expansion Kit as alternatives to otherwise costly upgrades to existing microwave infrastructure.

Exalt is cost effective because it delivers the lowest cost per megabit-mile in the industry. This means that rural electric cooperatives such as STEC, and other utility companies can upgrade to higher capacity and extend their networks over longer distances without having to pay a premium. Not only is there a faster return on investment (ROI), but money saved can be used to invest in other critical areas of the business. The tri-band 5GHz EX-i Series products from Exalt are ideally suited for utilities, enterprises, mobile carriers and others to instantly add native IP and T1 capacity to their existing 6GHz links using the Exalt Capacity Expansion kit.

Learn how Exalt is leading the next generation of wireless backhaul. Visit www.exaltcom.com for more information on products, solutions, and benefits from Exalt Communications or contact an Exalt sales representative.

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