



Application Scenario

Boating Rescue (Cell Phone Coverage)

The Situation

Dateline: Dover, Delaware – Rescuers from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Unit (DNREC) responded to a call from a teenager adrift in his boat far out into Delaware Bay. The teen, realizing that he was in serious trouble and that the boat was about to go out of his cell phone coverage area made a "last ditch" attempt to call for help. His call was forwarded to the Kent County, Delaware Emergency Operations Center where dispatchers contacted the DNREC for the rescue operation.

"He was smart. He didn't jump in the water or get out of the boat. In that weather, hypothermia would have occurred in 10 minutes," said Sgt. Gregory Rhodes, a spokesman for the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Unit. "Our officers travel with laptops. They used Google Earth and typed in his longitude and latitude and went and got him."



DNREC officers recovered the boy, who was not injured, and his boat, which had blown far out into Delaware Bay.

This story has a happy ending; however, had the boat drifted a bit further, it's questionable that the cell phone call would have gone thru.

The Solution

An integrated satellite-terrestrial communications network, currently being developed by SkyTerra Communications will provide ubiquitous wireless broadband services, including Internet access and voice services, throughout North America. This network, using commercially available handsets, will offer significant advantages over existing wireless networks. Such potential advantages include vastly expanded and improved phone coverage as well as higher data speeds, lower costs, and flexibility to support a range of custom IP applications and services. These features will all be possible through SkyTerra's new hybrid service. With SkyTerra's next generation services, the teen aboard the drifting boat would have had coverage to call and direct searchers and contact family and friends, who were very worried about their safety.

SkyTerra Overview

SkyTerra is developing its hybrid satellite-terrestrial communications network, based on SkyTerra's patented ancillary terrestrial component (ATC) technology. The company expects its next-generation network will provide seamless, transparent and ubiquitous wireless coverage of the United States and Canada to conventional handsets. SkyTerra plans to launch two of the most powerful commercial satellites ever built. These satellites will provide a platform for interoperable, user-friendly and feature-rich voice and high-speed data services. SkyTerra's network will enable communications in a variety of industry segments including public safety, homeland security, aviation, transportation and entertainment.

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