German Red Cross

Red Cross Emergency Exercise
In Germany’s largest-ever emergency exercise – MCI SOGRO 500 – a crash involving two aircraft carrying 500 passengers was staged at Frankfurt Airport. First responders swung into action to deal with this Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) getting the ‘victims’ to hospital and bringing the situation under control.

In the disaster scenario terrestrial communication networks had failed, but the authorities were able to rely on an Thrane & Thrane Explorer 500 BGAN terminal - supplied by Inmarsat partner CPN Satellite Services - to transmit vital information.

The purpose was to test out emergency response procedures and technology designed to ensure quicker and more efficient treatment of casualties. More than 1,570 people were involved in the October 2010 exercise - including police, fire and ambulance, together with more than 455 emergency vehicles.

The BGAN terminal, played a vital role in helping the German Red Cross Frankfurt to coordinate the complex rescue operation by ensuring that data for each patient was captured and sent to the incident command centre.

It meant that hospitals were able to prepare more quickly for incoming casualties, and patient data was readily available to both rescuers out in the field and medical staff.
A new system – in which each patient was given a wristband with a RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) chip – was tested for the first time during the exercise.

The idea was to replace an old paper system, which relied on coloured cards to record information about each patient and their injuries, with technology that could provide patient data in real time.

Under the new system, the colour of each wristband was used to indicate the degree of injury, while additional data, such as age, sex and a photograph of the person, was captured on data capture handsets (PDAs) and transferred to the RFID chip.

The chip could then be read by other rescue workers, and the collected data additionally transmitted from the PDA to the command centre via the WLAN using the BGAN terminal.

How BGAN was used
About BGAN

BGAN service provides simultaneous voice and broadband data communications globally from small and lightweight satellite terminals.

BGAN is accessible via a range of small, lightweight satellite terminals, which provide performance options to suit different operational needs.

EXPLORER 500 BGAN Terminal

Easy to transport. Quick to deploy. Powerful in operation. Choose the EXPLORER 500 for the perfect balance between form and function.

Professional performance
EXPLORER 500 offers the performance you need to carry out your work in the field, with high quality voice and broadband up to 464 kbps.

With the power to provide standard/premium voice, email, web browsing, VPN, video/audio streaming and access to work specific IP applications, location or environment is no longer a barrier to getting the job done.

Designed for portability
EXPLORER 500 is smaller than a standard laptop and weighs just 1.4 kg. Yet it still supports LAN, USB, Bluetooth and phone/fax interfaces, and is incredibly simple to deploy.

Your ability to communicate and do your job will not weigh you down. When it comes to setting up you can be online in minutes so critical contact can be made as and when it is needed.

Reliable connectivity
There is a reason why EXPLORER 500 is the most used BGAN terminal in the world: media, government, humanitarian and utility users know that it is designed and built to last.

BGAN key benefits
➢ Reliable communications
➢ Global coverage
➢ Rapid deployment and set up
➢ Simple operation
➢ Cost-effective communications solution
➢ BGAN operates where terrestrial infrastructure has been lost / compromised / overloaded
Customer feedback

“The BGAN Explorer 500 terminal provided us with a self-sufficient communication infrastructure for accessing to the worldwide web, making it perfect for a robust data transmission even when public networks are no longer available due to overloading or destruction.”

“After a short pre-configuration the terminal is easy to operate and intuitive. It only has to be switched on and pointed with the help of a visual display, an audible signal or a built-in compass to correct the horizontal or vertical angle.”

“After the orientation, which is completed in a few minutes, the terminal automatically dials into the network and is therefore available for transmission of data.”

“The BGAN terminal worked well during the entire duration of the exercise and contributed to the successful testing of the entire system.”

Eduard Maul, Siemens C-Lab, which developed the RFID solution for the German Red Cross Frankfurt.
How to buy

Inmarsat products and services are available through select Inmarsat distribution partners and service providers. Visit our website to find the right partner for you.

inmarsat.com/search-for-partner