

Establishing communications to enable success search and rescue missions

Thuraya delivered an end-to-end satellite solution that enables Badan SAR Nasional to establish quick, versatile and reliable communications to enhance their operations.

The Indonesian archipelago, with over 17,000 islands that extend across some of the most remote regions of South East Asia, poses a significant challenge for Badan SAR Nasional, the country's National Search and Rescue Agency – especially for operations conducted in offshore locations with very limited terrestrial network coverage.

For Badan SAR Nasional, a quick response time can make a difference in ensuring successful rescue operations. Satellite technology provides the vital communication link for the agency's personnel to effectively coordinate search and rescue efforts across various locations, as well as keep the headquarters connected to their branch offices and vessels. Maritime surveillance is another area that is instrumental to mission success. To this end, Badan SAR Nasional needed to establish reliable satellite communications to facilitate high-speed data transfer and video streaming applications over IP for their surveillance requirements.

Advanced satellite portfolio to address evolving needs

Thuraya partnered with its Indonesian service provider PT Mega Sarana Satelit to provide a comprehensive range of highly reliable mobile satellite solutions tailored to address Badan SAR Nasional's immediate communication needs.

Through a contract awarded to PT Mega Sarana Satelit, Badan SAR Nasional will install a combination of Thuraya IP terminals, the Thuraya Integrated Communications Solution from Ultra Electronics - AEP, and Thuraya NettedComms from Speakerbus. The phased implementation of Thuraya's various technology solutions is set to be completed by 2014.

Thuraya's satellite handsets were widely deployed and served as a key enabler for rescue teams to communicate with ease, leveraging the superior voice capabilities of the Thuraya XT and Thuraya XT-Dual to significantly enhance its operations.

PT Mega Sarana Satelit is also working with Badan SAR Nasional to play a more pivotal role in helping the agency adapt to evolving communication requirements in its search and rescue missions. The implementation of the Thuraya SatSleeve, for instance, will allow rescue personnel to gain quick and easy access to mobile satellite services (MSS) during emergency situations using their smartphones.

Faced with the increased demand for video surveillance services, Badan SAR Nasional decided to deploy Thuraya IP terminals over other competing platforms, as the Thuraya equipment consistently delivered high-speed broadband connectivity to facilitate real-time data transfer and reliable video streaming as a means of sharing critical information.

Rusidah Suhardi, President Director of PT Mega Sarana Satelit, said: "During emergency incidents where Badan SAR Nasional needs to be activated for search and rescue missions, their teams can depend on the Thuraya IP terminals to transfer high-quality images, or even video footages, within minutes of arriving at the site. Backed by Thuraya's satellite infrastructure, we are able to support

Badan SAR Nasional by delivering dedicated solutions that are conducive to their immediate situation assessment and subsequent rescue efforts.”

Reliable network solution for enhanced rescue operations

Security and interoperability are important considerations for government agencies such as Badan SAR Nasional. Thuraya developed a unique, highly flexible Netted Communications solution that incorporates different network technologies, enabling Badan SAR Nasional users to communicate effectively and securely within closed user groups – and to handle mission-critical voice and data communications across multiple devices and geographically disparate locations in Indonesia.

“Thuraya has demonstrated an in-depth understanding of our needs and has been working with us to develop a bespoke and highly reliable solution that will boost our communication needs immensely,” said Mr. Sutono, Director of Communications, Badan SAR Nasional.

Thuraya will continue to work closely over the coming months with PT Mega Sarana Satelit to help the agency deploy the next generation of Thuraya products and services, such as the Thuraya IP+, to further optimize search and rescue operations of Badan SAR Nasional in the near future.