General Administration of Customs UAE

The General Administration of Customs – Abu Dhabi, (Abu Dhabi Customs), an organization under Abu Dhabi Department of Finance, is responsible for facilitating trade with other countries and securing the borders that protect the Emirate's citizens. State-of-the-art technology such as CCTV video surveillance and night vision thermal cameras are just a few of the tools that are used to secure the country's interests.

H.E. Saeed Ahmed Al Muhairi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Customs believed that rapid development has transformed Abu Dhabi Customs to a modern organization focused on facilitating trade whilst ensuring appropriate controls and security in place. As part of Abu Dhabi 2030 plan and Department of Finance Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014; Abu Dhabi Customs is committed to consistently high quality services to all levels of business and society with cost effectiveness initiatives in order to maintain the financial resources of the country.

The General Administration of Customs – Abu Dhabi is comprised of several buildings connected by a Wide Area Network (WAN) utilizing leased lines that run communications and business applications, such as video conferencing. The network also supports the transfer of data from high resolution closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras located along the border back to the command center. As more buildings are added and network traffic increases, the need for quick deployment of high speed services is vital to conducting day-to-day operations. Al Muhairi wanted to find a cost-efficient network equivalent that would provide the same carrier-class performance with the highest level of security. He assigned Mr. Khaled Al Tenaiji, Project Manager of Custom Services, to find alternative solutions. Al Tenaiji explored other options including an unlicensed lower frequency system used by the police department, but given the difficult terrain, extreme heat and humidity, the system did not meet the reliability requirements. Deploying a fibre solution would require a major civil works program that would have taken at least six months to complete, cost almost AED 3 million (about $800,000 USD) and been left vulnerable to attacks from indigenous creatures that chew through cable.

Mr. Khaled Al Tenaiji worked with Prologix Distribution, the Middle East's leading supplier of communications solutions, to assist in identifying a new system. Prologix chose to deploy several BridgeWave AR80X and FE60U gigabit wireless links for their ability to deliver carrier-grade network performance at a fraction of the cost of deploying or leasing fibre services.

It took one week to install and activate ten links. Further testing during inclement weather yielded exceptional network performance, resulting in Abu Dhabi Custom's plan to recommend BridgeWave's systems for other CCTV projects in the region.

CHALLENGES:

- Identify a cost-effective, reliable, secure, fibre-equivalent network system
- Find a durable system capable of withstanding inclement weather and be impervious to indigenous wildlife

BRIDGEWAVE SOLUTIONS:

- AR80X, 80 GHz AdaptRate 100/1000 Mbps wireless links
- FE60U, 60 GHz Fast Ethernet wireless links

BENEFITS:

- Consolidation of network servers reduces costs and simplifies server management
- Fibre-equivalent GigE performance at a fraction of the cost of leasing fibre

"We needed to provide high speed connectivity in a very challenging topology where fibre is very difficult and expensive to deploy. BridgeWave's links provide full-rate gigabit speeds with no latency at an affordable price."

- H.E. Saeed Ahmed Al Muhairi
Director General,
General Administration of Customs UAE – Abu Dhabi

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