

A High Performance Wireless Trackside Meshed Network for Buenos Aires Commuter Trains

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# **SOFSE – The Train Company**

 Operadora Ferroviaria Sociedad del Estado - Operates regional passenger services in Argentina

 State-owned company created in 2008, since March 2015 also runs the Buenos Aires urban commuter rail services previously operated by private companies

- Manages 9 lines (1000 km) including:
  - SarmientoSan Martin
  - o Mitre (3 Lines)

Roca
Belgrano (2 lines)
Urquiza



### The Once Tragedy 22 February 2012

- A crowded train about 1,200 passengers
- Approached station at speed– working brakes were never applied
- Hit buffers at 26 kph- 51 killed, more than 700 injured
- Second fatal accident on the Sarmiento line within six months, third deadliest train accident in Argentine history
- Cause never officially determined



# **SOFSE Objectives**

### Goals:

- Make Sarmiento a model of safety
- Avoid recurrences
- Address operator errors

### Early Steps:

- CCTV to capture cockpit video for later review
- Saw need for real-time viewing in main control center



# **SOFSE's Required Solution**

- Live streaming of video from Cab to main control center
- Aggregate network capacity for up to 26 simultaneous Hi-Def live video streams.
- A real-time Command and Control and station linked to the Public Address alert system at the main control center and at each station

Command and Control system must include sufficient backbone network capacity to link each of the 16 stations with the main control center and with each other whenever needed



# **Public Tender**

### Specifications:

- 32 km of track, 16 stations 26 Trains (2 radios per train)
- No available 3G, 4G, or Fiber
- Stream 26 Hi-Def videos simultaneously
- Unlicensed spectrum (5.8 Ghz at 1 watt per radio)
- All stations and trains on a single network (>70 nodes)
- Command and Control with Station Alerting
- Response: NO OTHER QUALIFIED BIDDERS!



# **The Proposed Solution**

## K Mesh, based on MN MIMO wave form, not restrained by 802.11 specifications

### ■ Mutualink<sup>™</sup> Emergency Collaboration Network



# K (Carrier) Mesh Technology

- 2X and 4X MIMO COFDM far exceeds the capabilities of WiMesh 802.11
- Superior proprietary meshing algorithm development funded by DARPA
  - No tower to tower failover assured delivery at the packet level
  - Extremely robust in Urban Canyons and Subterranean Passages
  - Very high DATA throughput (>100 Mbs)
  - Extremely reliable at long ranges (30 Mbs at 25 miles, 2 Mbs at 60 miles or more)

Model 44X

Model 42X

Model 42X Hand Held



# K Mesh Advantages

Due to the extraordinary level of real-time, packet-level control and the advantages of MN MIMO, K Mesh advantages include:

- Instantaneously routes each packet by the current optimal path
- Automatically selects the optimal modulation scheme for each packet according to current conditions
- Space-Time coding distributes redundant copies of data across multiple antennas to improve robustness
- Spatial multiplexing permits multiple data streams to be sent simultaneously , increasing the capacity of the link
- Rx Beamforming allows radios efficiently to sum energy received by all receiving stations
- Tx Beamforming allows radios to steer transmit beams toward the receiver on a real time basis



# **Robust Performance in Urban Canyons GREEN** STREETS = STRONG RECEPTION

### 802.11 Radio

## K Mesh





# **Exceptional Subterranean Performance**

IP Camera - IXE10DN-ADLSL11

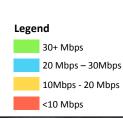
### 20/09/2014 01:54:59.554 p. m.



# **Exceptional Subterranean Performance**

- 1, 2, 3 Denote Locations of Fixed Radios
- 4<sup>th</sup> Radio Mobile and Followed Colored Path
- A, B, C, ... Denote Location of Measurements of Data Sent From 4<sup>th</sup> Radio to Radio 2 (See table below)
- Radio 1 Rubber Duck Antenna, Radio 2 Helical Antenna, Radio 3 Helical Antenna, Radio 4 – Laird Antenna
- ~50m x 50m Per Grid
- Vehicles Driving Between Signal Path Affected the Signal by Only 1~3dB
- K Denotes Inaccessible Area or Not Explored Area
- Radio Network Tested at 2.490GHz Center Frequency in a 20MHz BW

| Location | MCS   | SNR<br>(dB) | File<br>Transfer<br>(Mbps) | TCP lperf<br>(Mbps) |
|----------|-------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Α        | 12    | 37          | 37                         | 31                  |
| B via R1 | 9, 3  | 18, 19      | 8.8                        | 7.3                 |
| C via R1 | 12, 9 | 22, 22      | 14.4                       | 10                  |
| D        | 11    | 29          | 35                         | 25                  |
| E via R1 | 12, 2 | 31, 21      | 13.6                       | 9.96                |
| F via R3 | 2, 3  | 5, 12       | 8.8                        | 7                   |
| G via R3 | 2, 3  | 3, 13       | 8                          | 7.8                 |
| H via R3 | 14, 3 | 40, 12      | 12.8                       | 12.4                |
| 1        | 14    | 25          | 64                         | 37                  |





### ANTI-JAMMING MEASURES IN K MESH RADIOS

#### How does MN-MIMO overcome jamming?

Radio Interoperability and the ability to change frequencies on demand are InterLink's two most powerful tools for overcoming jamming.

#### **Radio Interoperability:**

For both voice and data, InterLink Radios communicate via IP over RF as well as over wired infrastructure. These radios can be comprised of multiple networks set to different frequencies, yet, when a single network spans multiple frequencies, the radios will interoperate seamlessly for both voice and data.

#### Ability to change frequencies on demand:

If, for instance, in a forward position, half the radios are on one frequency and half are on a different frequency, the two sets of radios can interoperate for voice and data. If one frequency is jammed, users on that frequency can switch to the other frequency and resume communications as if no jamming had occurred. If only a subset of the users of one are disabled by jamming, the surviving users need only connect to a radio of the other frequency, and a connection can be reestablished for the surviving radios in the jammed network. Can a radio move to a different frequency (automatically or manually) in the event that a frequency is jammed? Today, these changes are manual and are conducted from the Tactical Operation Center. In fact, an entire network of radios can be changed to a different frequency with one click using our broadcast update feature. In the future, this can be done automatically using the ST-DSA feature described in the next slide.

### ANTI-JAMMING (continued)



#### **Additional capabilities include:**

**Rx Beamforming:** Allows radios efficiently to sum energy received by all receiving stations, thereby enabling connections with radios that would otherwise be lost under marginal jamming conditions.

**Tx Beamforming:** Allows radios to steer transmit beams toward the receiver on a real time basis, therefore enabling connections with radios that would otherwise be lost under marginal jamming conditions.

**Tunable Frequency Range:** Radios can be tuned to different frequencies within the capability range of a nominal band as defined by a radio chip set.

**Dual Band Options:** Radios can be equipped with two widely varying frequencies to circumvent jamming.

**Superior Meshing:** Our superior meshing algorithm allows our radios to circumvent "pockets" of jamming activity.

**MN-MIMO:** MN-MIMO allows radios to make good use of otherwise useless multipath signals even in the event of jamming.

### ANTI-JAMMING (continued)

Our research program features a number of ongoing R&D efforts that aim to address jamming and other issues. Videos demonstrating our efforts can be found on at the following URLs:

Interlink

#### **Eigen Beamnulling:**

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/66666734/www.interlinkcorp.com%20files/ Multi%20Antenna%20Spatial%20Interference%20Mitigation%20Technology.mp4 The Eigen Beamnulling video demonstrates an interference suppression technique (minimize interference by around 20dB).

#### Single Transceiver Dynamic Spectrum Access:

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/66666734/www.interlinkcorp.com%20files/ Single%20Transceiver%20Dynamic%20Spectrum%20Access%20Demo.mp4 The Single Transceiver Dynamic video demonstrates an interference avoidance technique, whereby the nodes move to a different frequency to avoid the interference.

Please note that these capabilities are currently under Research & Development and at a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4-6. Global InterLink welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Egyptian MOD to further advance this capability for their mission specific requirements.



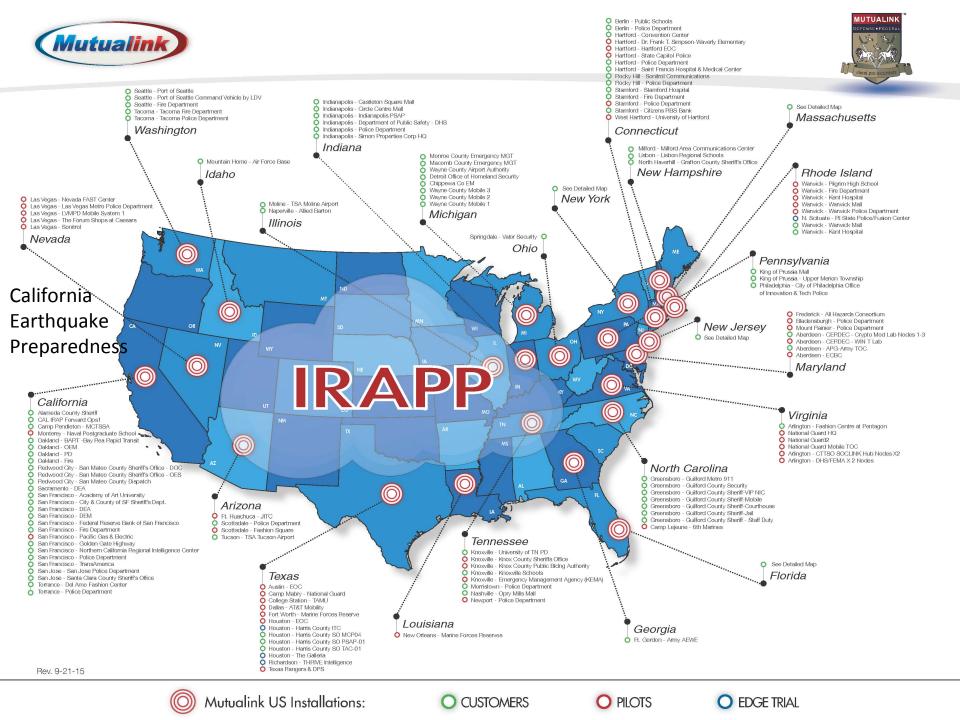
# Command and Control System Mutualink™ Real-Time Emergency Collaboration

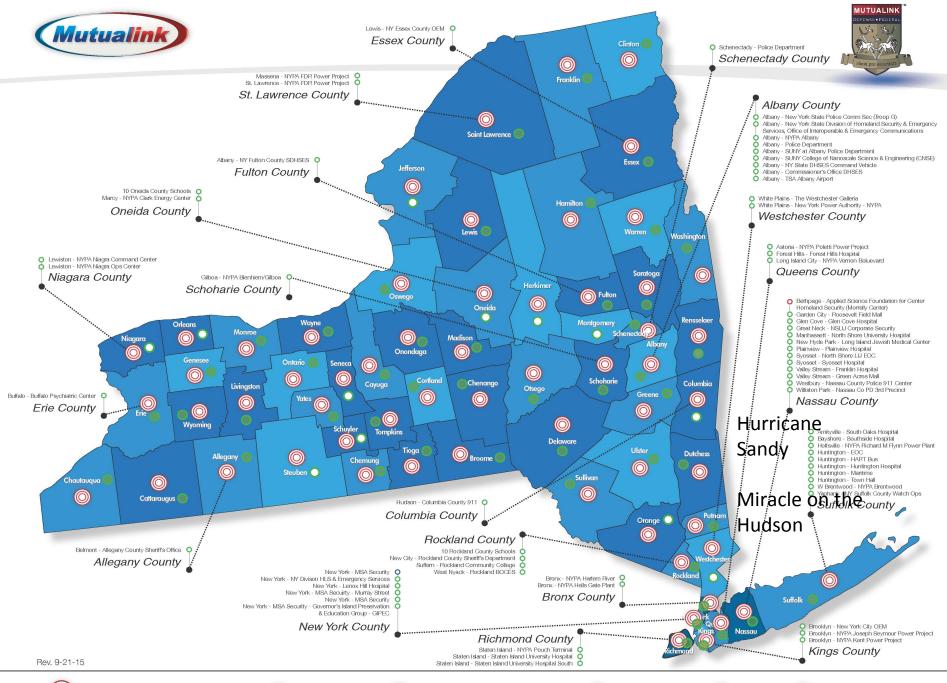
- Linking the main control center and all 16 rail stations:
- Instantaneous sharing of video with integrated interoperable radio, voice, video, telephone
- Allows coordination among all SOFSE lines in later phases of deployment
- Ability to become a multi-agency collaboration system if and when SOFSE opts for that functionality



## Command and Control System Mutualink™ Emergency Collaboration Network

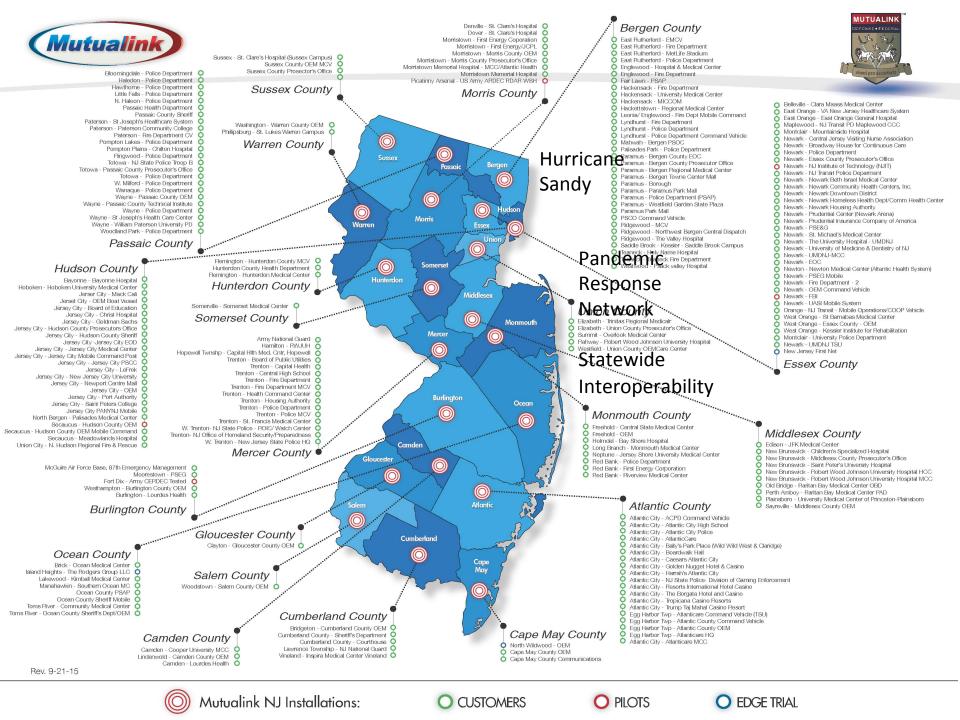


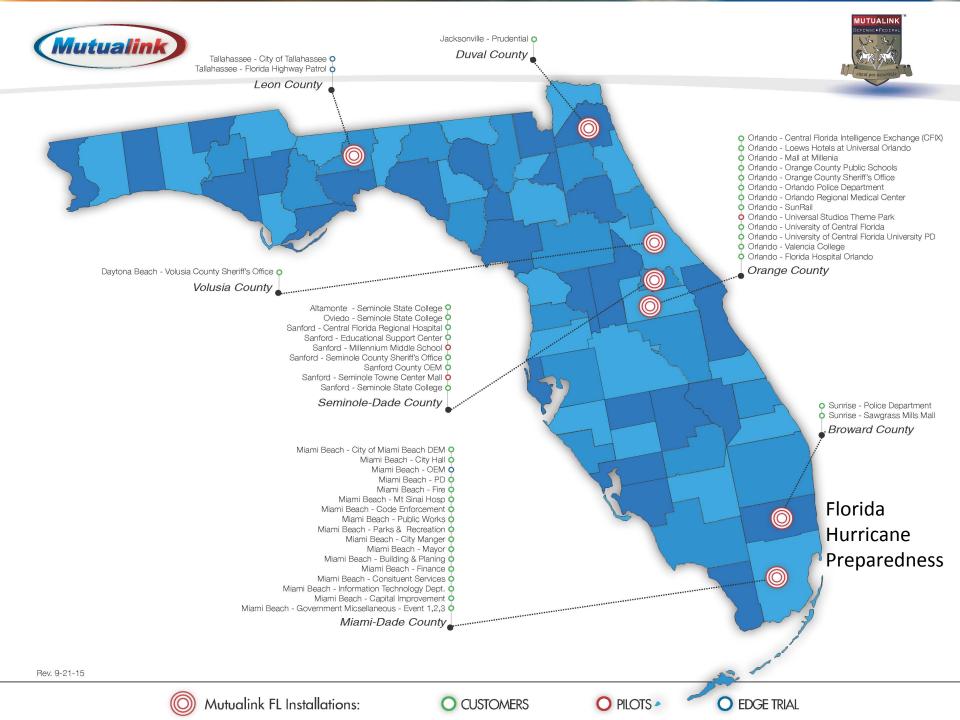




Mutualink NY Installations: O CUSTOMERS | ONY Statewide EOMs - 62 Counties O Installed EOM | O PILOTS | O EDGE TRIAL

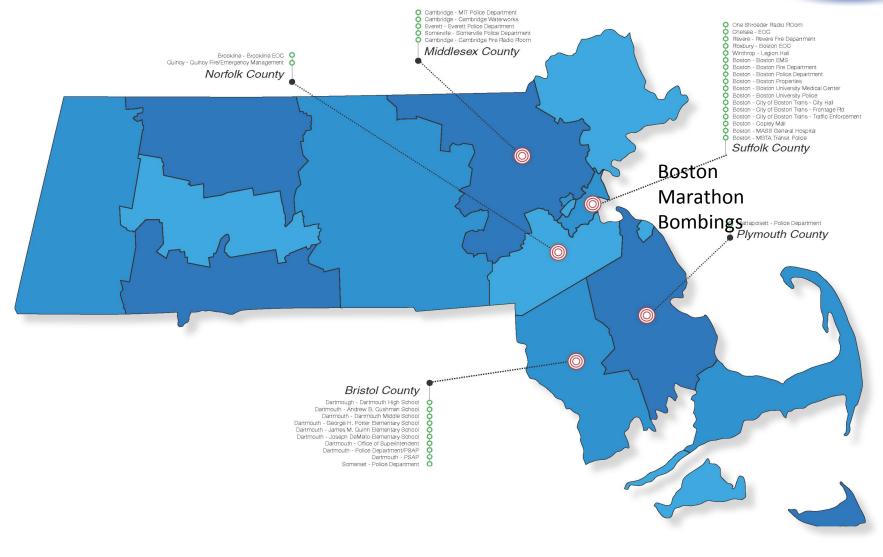
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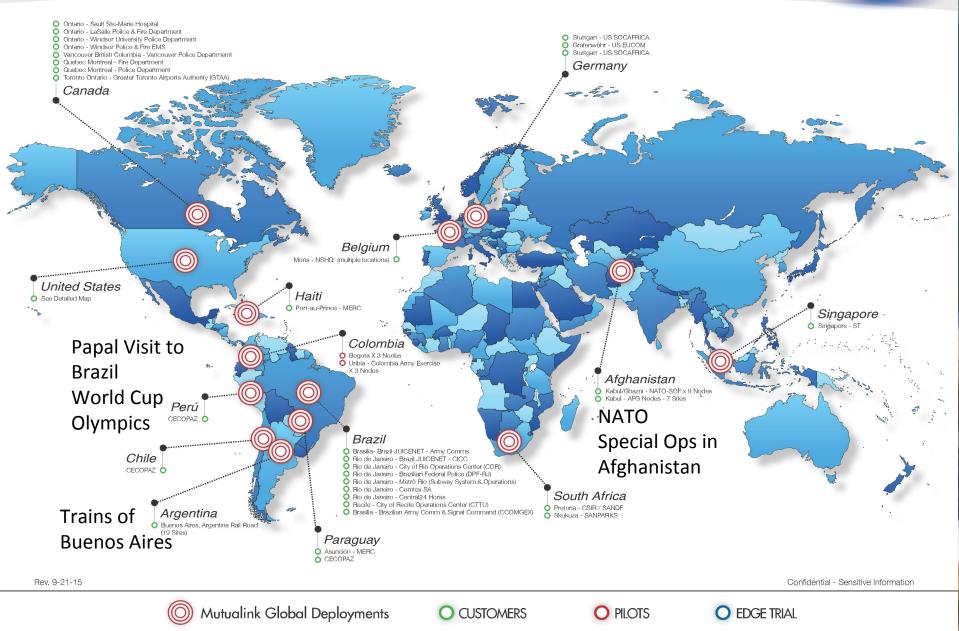


O EDGE TRIAL











# Why 802.11 Is Not Suitable

Supports too few nodes in a mesh topology

- Not enough "hops" per mesh for wireless backhaul
- Insufficient performance/range Inability to handle the data throughputs per connection consistently and reliably
- NLOS reception inadequate
- Require too many nodes and frequencies



# Why 802.11 Is Not Suitable

- Requires more towers and tower infrastructure than Needed amd more power per radio and many more radios thus <u>lots</u> more power
- As a result could not use solar as a power source when many of the nodes that need solar power
- Needed electrical amplifiers that put out lots of amps to achieve distance
- Train speeds of 65 km/h are a challenge for 802.11 solutions
- Harsh on-board environment would be fatal to many 802.11 radios.



## Why K Mesh is the Right Choice for SOFSE

- Supports an unlimited number of nodes in a mesh topology as required by SOFSE's application
- Supports many "hops" per mesh without significant performance degradation
- Performance and range are exceptional and it handles the high data throughputs per connection consistently and reliably even at considerable distance from towers
- Handles NLOS reception better than other radios
   Requires fewer nodes and frequencies



# Why K Mesh is the Right Choice for SOFSE

- Requires fewer towers and tower infrastructure and less power per radio and many fewer radios thus lots less power
- As a result K Mesh can use solar power for all nodes that need solar power
- No electrical amplifiers are needed to achieve distance
- Train speeds of 65 km/h are a not a challenge for K Mesh solutions
- K Mesh radios are built to handle extremely harsh environments

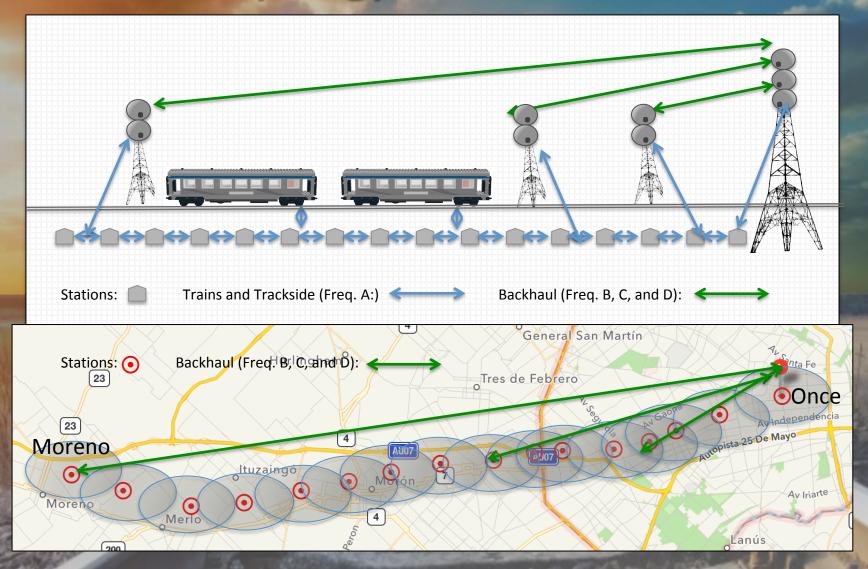


# **Network Topology as Deployed**

- 26 Sarmiento trains equipped with a K Mesh radio in the two locomotive end cabs
- 16 stations with no existing fiber links
- Supplemental relay points to resolve two problematic NLOS situations found to exist along curved and/or trenched sections of the line.
- A mesh network of over 70 individual nodes which may be active at any given point in time
- 4 Backhaul links high (up to 90 meters) towers at each end and at two intermediate points.
- 4 different frequencies, one network



# **Network Topology**



## Outcome



InterLink LA and local partners selected in early 2015

- Installations began in March 2015, completed by November 2015
- System as delivered met and/or exceeded all SOFSE's requirements -approved after a month of trials
- SOFSE created a video wall to showcase the live streams from the streaming video as well as a shared streams from the Mutualink Emergency Collaboration system



## Outcome (Cont.)

- Operators constantly view incoming streams and react immediately to safety infractions
- In the first month of operation on Sarmiento line alone, there were 136 observed infractions, some of them major
- After four months the number of infractions had dropped to only 22, most of them minor
- Additionally the timely notification of stations in the event of late running trains has led to a better rider experience

# The K Mesh Solution





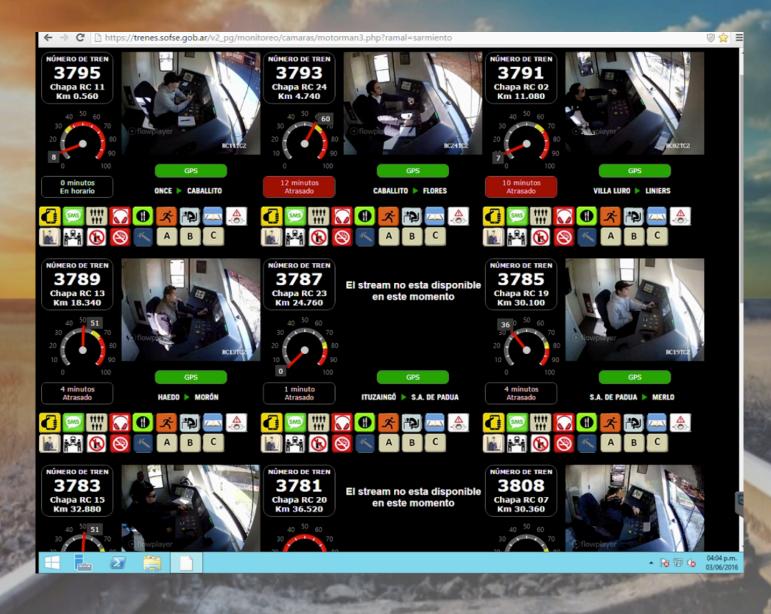
# Video Wall





## Video "Dashboard"







## **Customer Satisfaction**

 Florencio Randazzo, Minister of Interior & Transport -December 3, 2015 press conference to announce the new system for monitoring train operations.

 The Minister explained how the new system

 seeks to discourage reckless behavior by the train drivers
 provides real-time video of the cabs of trains on the Sarmiento Line via a freely accessible website



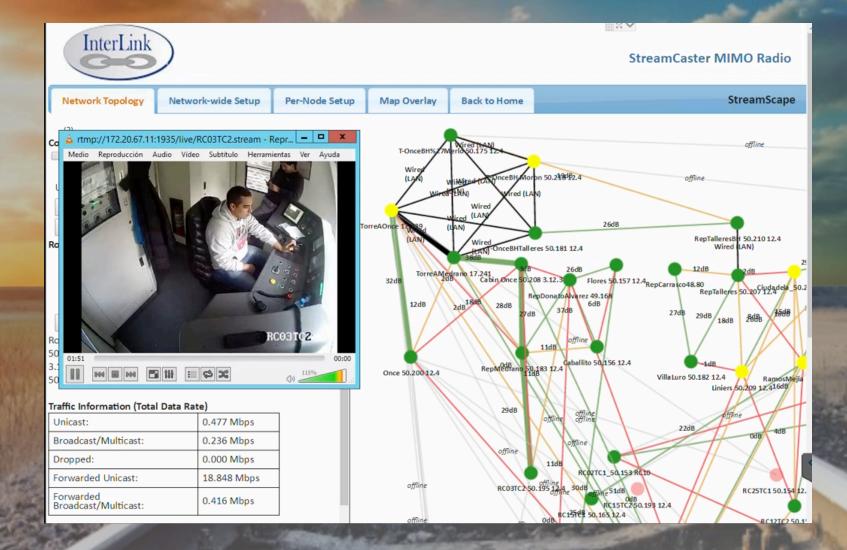
# **Minister of Interior and Transport Randazzo:**



"Six months after the tragedy of Once, we went to work tirelessly to rebuild the confidence in the rail system with the best of servizes"

# **REMOTE ADMIN TOOLS**

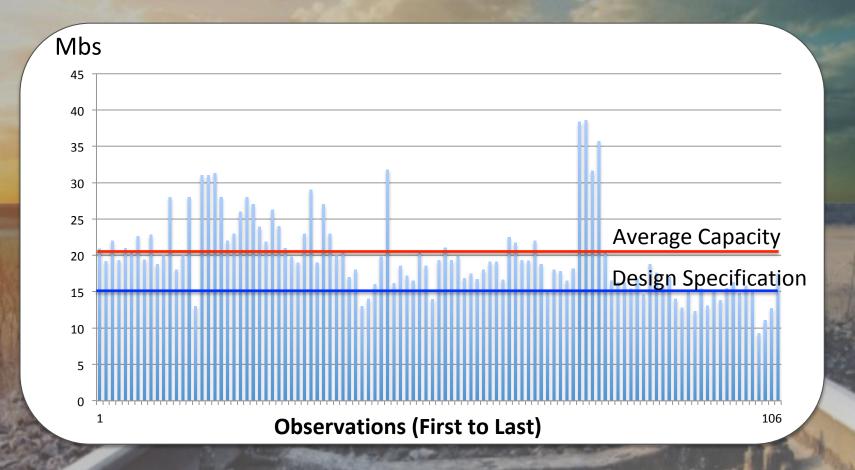






### Sarmiento Line Train-to-Trackside Capacity

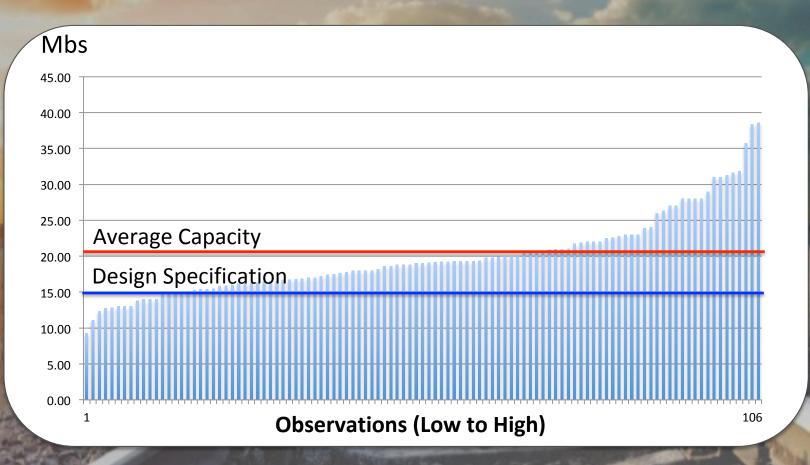
Sampled for 4 minutes and 10 seconds of travel = ~2.7 Miles Sampled every 2.4 seconds





### Sarmiento Line Train-to-Trackside Capacity

Sampled 4 minutes and 10 seconds of travel = ~2.7 Miles Sampled every 2.4 seconds





# **Cost and Performance**

- We quote our products according to an agreed upon throughput of the system, not by the radio
- Our products are cost competitive with top tier 802.11 and Private LTE solutions
- Our greatest savings come from reduced radio counts, fewer towers, and greatly reduced overall infrastructure
- In head to head comparisons, the total deployment cost of K Mesh has generally shown a savings of 40% or greater compared to conventional 802.11 and Private LTE configurations



# Conclusions

- System fully approved by SOFSE met and/or exceeded all SOFSE's requirements
- Mutualink Emergency Collaboration system meets and exceeds all requirements, customer seeing more and more features and benefits
- Is being rolled out across four more lines

   Mitre's three lines (Tigre, Mitre, and Suarez)
   San Martin

   Video wall showcasing live streams is highly successful

# Conclusions



- In four month of operation on Sarmiento line alone, infractions have been reduced by 84%
- Timely notification of stations in the event of late running trains has led to a better rider experience
- No recent incidences of crowd violence have been reported at stations on Sarmiento line
- The System has the capability to serve many more functions, including on board public and private wi-fi, signaling, telemetry, (especially including CBTC, PTC, ECTS, ERTMS, and other vital onboard systems "always on" applications) as the customer wishes to add them