

CHISASIBI, CREE VILLAGE

A REMOTE INDIAN VILLAGE IMPLEMENTS A SERIES OF PTP LINKS THROUGH OBSTRUCTIONS

Overview

Chisasibi is one of nine Cree villages in the James Bay region of Quebec, Canada, home of 3,800 Cree, about 150 Inuit, and 300 non-native people. It is the northernmost Cree village accessible by road.

This remote community had only makeshift communications, with nine separate phone systems and a set of aging 900 MHz links for data. The community wanted wireless links to transport voice and data from the main Finance/Hospital site in James Bay to the Mental Health clinic, the Admin building for IT support staff, several office buildings and a group home. Because there was a need to avoid the expense of building towers for the wireless gear, it was necessary for all units to be mounted on the existing buildings: all of them one and two story structures scattered throughout the village. As a result, a multipoint system would be unworkable because of line-of-sight obstruction.

Daisy-chaining Four PTP Links

SMI2020 worked with Solectek partner Crossover Distribution to design and implement a system of SkyWay Excel-50 point-to-point links connected in daisy-chain fashion. Even with this option, there was still only a narrow gap between some buildings where links could pass. Integrator Aurèle Meilleur said it was “like threading a needle.” Thanks to Solectek OFDM technology, though, Meilleur was able to bring all links up with the full 50 Mbits/second throughput capability of the Excel-50.

SMI2020 plans to expand the system to include 10 additional buildings in Chisasibi. They will remove the existing nine phone networks and replace them all with a single ShoreTel system, and will also offer VoIP to the Transit apartment and homes. The company is also working with nine other communities in the area that are underserved for telecommunications. SMI2020 is looking into implementing additional Excel systems as well as Access point-to-multipoint networks.



“The back-to-back PTP link network is working flawlessly.”

**Aurèle Meilleur
Technical Specialist / Advisor
SMI2020**