

NATIVE AMERICANS SAVE MONEY AND IMPROVE ACCESS WITH SOLECTEK NETWORKS

Wireless Networks Improve Connectivity for Three Communities

Many Native American communities are usually in rural areas and spread out over vast distances. They are often isolated from the existing wired infrastructures that are typically found in urban and suburban areas. As their IS departments attempt to improve networking services and Internet access for businesses and individuals, many are finding that a wireless network from Solectek Corporation provides the connectivity that they need. Wireless networks are less expensive than wired solutions, and provide them with greater flexibility and bandwidth.

Isleta Pueblo – New Mexico

The Native American community of Isleta extends across 211,000 acres and has a population in excess of 3000. Before the installation of a Solectek wireless network, the tribal government did not have a data communications network to reach across its expanse. Accounting information was collected manually. E-mail and Internet access was not available.

Life has changed in this pueblo, south of Albuquerque. After discovering that typical telephone landlines would be too expensive to link the 15 business offices across the pueblo, the tribal leaders decided to consider a wireless solution. “The Solectek wireless network has literally saved us from going over the river and through the woods, not to mention crossing the railroad tracks and several highways,” said Terry Honeycutt, MIS Coordinator for the Isleta Pueblo.

Two 100-foot towers now rise above the community to link the services throughout the area. Eleven Solectek MP 200s and six

Solectek MP 550s, with data rates of 2 Mbps and 5.5 Mbps respectively will link business offices. Some of the services that will be linked on the wireless network include the police, emergency medical services, the recreation center, the hospital, the casino, the golf course and the country store. Accounting information will flow to the centralized treasurer’s office to better manage the pueblo’s business activities. Internet access and e-mail will link the pueblo members with each other and the outside world.

Sioux Tribe – South Dakota

The Sioux Tribe of Lower Brule, South Dakota also has plans to use their new Solectek wireless network for video applications in the future. “We’d like to use the high bandwidth of the MP1100 to make the community more secure,” said Steve Sievert, IS Manager for the Sioux Tribe. He plans to install video cameras in key areas and send images to the police department every few seconds.

Video security is a huge change from the prior operations of the tribe. In this remote part of South Dakota, traditional landlines were impractical. There was one T-1 line provided by the U.S. Government, but this set-up only provided dial-up access for a limited number of people. Access to the Internet, for example, was limited to only one person at a time in any one office.

Using a Solectek wireless network, the Sioux Tribe has been able to network its community. Now, about 300 users are connected to the network and have access to the Internet. The wireless network lets them share common resources



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such as the AS/400 computer, which houses financial information. Social service departments can now better coordinate their activities and ensure that each client receives help from all the service groups to which he or she is entitled.

The wireless network has also allowed tribal programs to combine resources to buy large equipment that they could not buy individually. Recently they purchased a large format color laser printer that they now share. "One of the best things about the Solectek wireless network is the convenience for everyone," said Sievert. "We can share our best equipment regardless of its physical location."

GSA Pricing Option

The Sioux Tribe was able to take advantage of GSA pricing when they purchased the system. However, the discounted GSA price has not meant discounted service. "Whenever we have had a question, we've had a fast response from Solectek—usually within 24 hours," said Sievert.

The Sioux Tribe has found the flexibility of the Solectek solution to be another advantage for them. "We bought the system knowing that we were going to relocate the entire office," said Sievert. "Anything that would have been permanent would have been out of the question. With the wireless system, all you do is move the antennas, realign them and you're back in business. For a mobile solution, you can't beat it!

In addition to video security, Sievert is also looking at other applications that can take advantage of data rates of 11 Mbps. "I'd also like to run voice and fax over IP", he said. "I would be great if we could install a PBX in the tribe and eliminate all phone lines throughout the community."

Solectek Wireless Solution Saves Money and Increases Flexibility

While all three of these Native American communities may have unique situations and plans for their network, all have saved money and increased their options by installing a Solectek wireless network. Data rates for the network include 2 Mbps, 5.5 Mbps and 11 Mbps, and are field upgradeable from the slowest to the fastest with only a software change. A license is not required for spread spectrum networks, and the inherent security of the technology ensures that communications are reliable and secure.

Solectek Corporation, headquartered in San Diego, California, designs, manufactures and markets a full line of wireless interconnectivity products. Through technical innovation and steady revenue growth, Solectek has become a recognized leader in the wireless LAN/WAN connectivity market and the industry market leader in wireless bridges. Founded in 1989, Solectek has over 4,000 installations worldwide. The Solectek product line of wireless bridges and routers is the most flexible, reliable and secure in the industry. For more information visit www.solectek.com.

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