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Case study - RockSTAR & Journalists / Remote Workers

Journalists travel to risky areas, with both known and unknown danger. You cannot rely on communication facilities on the ground such as mobile phone (GSM) networks as these can be easily turned off by authorities with little or no notice.

We provide RockSTAR units to a large number of news media organisations across the globe. The RockSTAR provides accurate tracking, allowing HQ to know the last location of their team members, and also gives a secure and private means of communication from HQ to remote workers.

Key Details

- GPS tracking
- Secure communications
- Alert notification
- Long battery life
- Independently powered
- Easy to hide/secure
- Stealth mode
- Relatively discreet



In Depth

Journalists have a hard life - travelling from place to place - it might be a warzone one week, then a natural disaster area the next. In all cases, they can only rely on the equipment they take with them. There's no guarantee that there will be any

communications equipment onsite when they get there - most of the time they don't even know if they'll get a pillow to sleep on!

That's where the RockSTAR is useful. It provides a vital way for the journalist to keep in touch with both HQ, and home. Position information is sent automatically from the unit, as regularly as every 30 seconds, or as infrequently as once every 12 hours. If HQ feel that they are in trouble, they can remotely increase the transmission rate to get more regular fixes

The RockSTAR can also be used to communicate, sending short messages via e-mail and SMS to the office, and to loved ones. Some even use our Bluetooth link (via iPad/iPhone/Android) to write short articles and send them back for print

Our units don't rely on any terrestrial service - if the mobile phone network is down, that's not a problem. As long as our devices can see the sky, then they will be able to transmit their position and message data back home. That means certainty, and when you're stuck in a warzone reporting the news, we're told that certainty is worth its weight in gold.

It's cost effective too. Normally news organisations might have a stock of RockSTARs, but that doesn't mean they are always in use. Slow news days do happen! With our service, you just pay for what you use. Before the start of the trip HQ activate the line rental for the unit for a month or more, the journalist turns the unit on, and the RockSTAR will start transmitting a position fix once per hour (or whatever the customer chooses). When the units are sat on the shelf in the store-room, you don't pay anything. Any credits left over from one deployment will still be there when the unit is activated next time, on its next trip.

Back at HQ, the customer uses The CORE to monitor the positions of all their workers.

In the case of an emergency, the RockSTAR unit can be used to alert HQ, using either the dedicated red button, or better using the messaging facilities to indicate the type of alert, and any other relevant details. It can also be sent a command to go into 'stealth mode' which means that the screen and LED are turned off - the unit continues to operate as normal, but it looks as though the battery has run out - useful if compromised.



- Up to 3 month battery life, transmitting every hour
- Rechargeable in the field using standard USB options
- Portable, and can be covertly placed
- Two-way messaging between remote worker and HQ
- Access to 'The CORE' for management across all deployed workers
- Various alert options including red button, timer alert, dead man's switch etc.
- Pay only when the units are being used, no annual contracts

In summary, the RockSTAR is a private and reliable means of communication and tracking between the organisation and the journalists. Because of the erratic nature of news events, our pay-as-you-go service is cost effective, requiring no annual contracts.

For more informations visit: www.g-layer.com.au/rockstar/



Introducing G-layer

G-Layer is a supplier and importer for YellowBrick and Rock7 location technology in the Australia Pacific region. We are also an authorised TC communication dealer.

We specialise in providing solutions for data, communications and automated tracking in difficult environments to the far corners of the globe.

We draw on our decades of experience in connecting remote areas with the rest of the world. We have worked with some of the world's largest Non Government Organisations (NGO) in the most remote places on earth, including: Antarctica, the Amazon rainforest, the North pole and the Himalaya chain.

All this extensive experience has contributed to making G-layer the go-to solution for challenging field expeditions, news gathering, equipment installation, asset tracking and custom electronic constructions.

Our core values

G-Layer is an Australian registered business (ABN 69161615115), offering high quality services to NGOs, Companies and individuals. G-Layer respects the human rights and the culture of any ethnic group.

G-Layer is also committed to doing our bit for the environment as our work shop is totally powered by solar panels and the website is designed and maintain by Tjiltjapuna Web Designs who is an Accredited 100% Green Renewable Power user.

