



My Name's 5 Daddie foundation: Charity cycle ride to Rome

WAVE PTX™ Communications enable effective coordination and enhanced safety for Edinburgh to Rome charity cycle ride

The My Name's 5 Daddie Foundation was set up in 2017 by Scottish rugby legend Doddie Weir and friends, following his Motor Neurone Disease (MND) diagnosis. The Foundation aims to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for MND and support sufferers of the disease; it relies heavily on donations and fundraising. On 28th February 2024, a 30-strong team of riders and support crew set off on the epic 3,000 km cycling challenge 'All Roads Lead to Rome' to raise funds for The Foundation. The cyclists rode in relay pods to complete the distance and their route took them from Edinburgh to Rome. En route they visited every Six Nations Championship stadium, as well as being received at the Palais de Monaco, before they arrived in Rome to present the match ball for the Scotland v Italy game on 9th March.

**MY
NAME'S
DODDIE**
foundation

LINK-TEL
COMMUNICATIONS

Customer

My Name's 5 Daddie Foundation

Partner

Link-Tel Communications

Industry

- Charity
- Sports Events

Solutions

- WAVE PTX
- TLK 100 two-way radios
- WAVE PTX Dispatch
- Accessories including D-shell earpieces and six-way chargers



Challenge

Last year, the team participated in a similar fundraising event for The Foundation, a shorter 55 hour cycle ride from Cardiff to Edinburgh, via the east coast of England. Mobile devices and instant messaging services were used to communicate between the team and vehicles. With this experience, the team identified the need for a more robust solution, knowing that these communications could not offer the oversight, safety or reliability needed for the longer ride across Europe. The larger support team of 14 needed a professional, licence free solution they could use anywhere in Europe and that would offer reliable wide area coverage. As the event was a relay challenge across four cycling pods – a total of 16 cyclists – with strategic daily planning regarding timings and locations, the support vehicles needed to always be able to communicate between themselves, and know each other's locations, as well as communicate with the cyclists in their pod.

Motorola Solutions Glasgow-based partner Link-Tel Communications provides security and two-way radio systems to businesses throughout the UK; one of their contacts, Kevin Greig, Head of Security at abrpn plc, is involved with the charity and had a key role in the event management of this year's ride. He got in touch with Link-Tel Communications to see if they could offer some support.

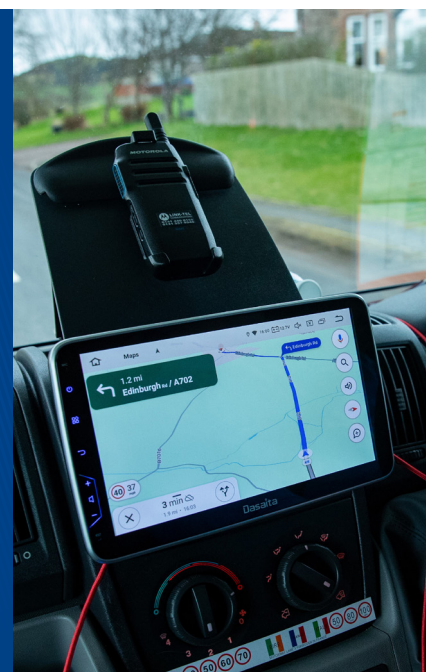
Solution

Link-Tel Communications was happy to be involved and has become an official sponsor of the charity. Having discussed their requirements, it recommended a WAVE PTX system, which the team successfully tested and deployed as follows: the gold level strategic operations command vehicle had both a TLK 100 and the WAVE PTX Dispatch application (running on a laptop, connected via a mobile hotspot). In this way, this director could see precisely where each pod was in real time and coordinate operations effectively based on expected arrival times, delays, keeping teams on schedule or rerouting. This function was also key in managing the ride into Rome, as riders presented the match ball at the start of the Scotland v Italy Six Nations game. At bronze level were the four staggered pod support vehicles and tail vehicle, which also each had a TLK 100 radio and could call in any incidents, such as punctures or a fall, receive updates and instructions regarding their group's relay takeover, or advise of any adverse weather conditions their group had come into, for example. The TLK 100s all had European SIM cards and all communications were group-wide, so parties knew everything that was happening across the ride, although teams did also have the option for individual calling. The cyclists and pod cars also had back-to-back radios for communications between themselves, in case they became separated for any reason, and D-shaped earpieces for hands-free calling.

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There is nothing like rugby to bring people together. The passion for the game runs deep. We received such a warm welcome all along the way, from all ages and all backgrounds, and we really appreciate the support, especially from all the local rugby clubs across Europe. And, most importantly, we raised valuable funds for MND. However, organising a four-pod relay team to complete such a long route in so few days was a complex organisational undertaking: an undertaking which would have been near impossible to manage effectively without the WAVE PTX system that Link-Tel Communications kindly donated. The off-the-shelf system meant we could coordinate the pods and have good real-time visibility of pod locations. We didn't have any major incidents, thankfully, but we knew, if we did, we could manage them efficiently, so ensuring the safety of all the riders and support teams. It was just the solution we needed.

– Kevin Greig, Fundraiser, My Name's Doddie Foundation



Benefits

WAVE PTX provided the simplicity of operational control and coordination that the 'All Roads Lead to Rome' ride needed. The TLK 100s have automatic roaming so, from the valleys of Wales to the peaks of the Alps, the radios switched to the strongest available network signal for the teams, to ensure they could always communicate effectively over a wide area. The system was heavily used every day, from the 6am start to the 10pm finish, and users praised the robustness and ease-of-use of the radios and the excellent battery life. As Kevin Greig summarises, "WAVE PTX was just the perfect product for us; everyone who asked about it was really impressed. We would definitely use WAVE PTX again at similar events in the future. It will be exciting to see what we are planning next in terms of fundraising. Watch this space!"



Benefits

- Route-wide seamless communications across seven countries; loud and clear audio
- Accurate GPS tracking via WAVE PTX Dispatch for improved visibility
- Efficient team coordination of cycle pods and relays
- Enhanced team safety and more informed incident response
- Robust, reliable, easy-to-use devices with excellent battery life





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