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Adams Distributing Converts Sites to IDAS™



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Once in awhile procrastination pays off. It certainly did for Scott Adams of Wixom, Mich.-based Adams Distributing, who needed to find a migration solution for his legacy 25 kHz analog sites. But without a clear FCC narrowband mandate and no stand-out solutions, he was postponing the inevitable for as long as possible.

"The FCC is eventually going to require 6.25 kHz, and I've been looking at what to do with this legacy system for some time," Adams says. Scott goes on to say that he's never been convinced that some of today's common trunking protocols are the way to go, and he does not want to pay "an arm and a leg for it."

Adams, who operates three sites in the Detroit metro area and provides services for 1,500 local users, planned to eventually network the sites for wide area coverage, add an additional site and transition to narrowband digital.

He looked at several common standards, but none seemed quite right. Too expensive, too proprietary, too unproven. Then he discovered IDAS™.



One of Adams' customers, a leading automobile manufacturer with operations in Detroit, wanted to install a narrowband digital communications system in a newly constructed research building. One caveat: The new system had to be capable of communicating with another nearby facility

that still operated a conventional analog system.

While investigating different solutions, Adams and his project partner discovered Icom's FR6000 IDAS repeater. The FR6000 can receive both analog and digital signals on a single channel, allowing the automobile manufacturer to operate a digital system in its new research facility and still communicate with the other facility's analog system.

"The system performed flawlessly," Adams says. It made him wonder whether IDAS might be the solution to his narrowband quandaries.

"I started investigating and found that not only is IDAS efficient, but it would also be a quarter of the cost of another common type of trunking and half the price of a competitor's system" Adams says.

Convinced he had finally found the solution he was looking for, Adams drew up plans to convert his three existing sites to IDAS and add one additional site. He also upgraded to IDAS Trunking with the optional UC-FR5000 network card, which allows him to program the trunking controller and carry out simple diagnostics via IP connection.



Currently, the project is nearing completion. Adams is now waiting for the new frequency assignments so that the rest of the repeaters can be installed.

"The coordinator hasn't finished our licenses yet, probably because it's a pretty big task: We're changing all our current 25 kHz repeaters at three sites, and activating a fourth site," Adams says. "Once we receive the license, we're online!"

With the release of Icom's IDAS multisite IP network firmware, expected to ship in early 2010, the project will be complete, says Adams. "That's when the system will really show off what it can do."

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