Nomination: 20058

Kacific's CommsBox: Innovative emergency WiFi connectivity solution for disaster relief

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Page: General Information

Name of Organization / Company

Kacific Broadband Satellites Group

Logo

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Kacific%20Logo_Print%20File_Logo%201.png)

Web Site Address

https://kacific.com/ (https://kacific.com/)

Page: Entry Information

Entry Title

Kacific's CommsBox: Innovative emergency WiFi connectivity solution for disaster relief

Category

T01 - T11 - Achievement Categories > T08. Achievement in Product Innovation

Submission Format

An Essay of up to 625 Words

Essay

Kacific's CommsBox: Innovative emergency WiFi connectivity solution for disaster relief

Christian Patouraux, CEO of Kacific Broadband Satellites, experienced one of the region's most deadly tsunamis: the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. He was on a small island, and after the impact, all communication ceased. People were severely wounded and needed emergency evacuation, and the death rate hit 50 percent. Fast-forward 20 years, this experience has stayed with Christian. It has informed the design of CommsBox: a fully self-contained, transportable, all-in-one satellite communications product designed to provide instant connectivity in disaster zones.
The Commsbox is the first of its kind and is a turnkey solution designed to meet the particular disaster response requirements of territories in Asia Pacific. There are no other comparable disaster communications systems and services in the market.

CommsBox provides civil defence with a communication solution that does not rely on local ground-based technology. Three ground stations for the Kacific1 satellite, located at three different sites, ensure the satellite network will continue to function even if one site is damaged.

"One button" Connectivity Approach
The CommsBox features a 55cm auto-tracking maritime antenna within its sleek white dome, quickly connecting to the Kacific1 satellite. With a simple "ON" button, the antenna automatically aligns, providing instant connectivity. This quick deployment and easy setup make CommsBox a more robust and time-efficient solution than traditional antennas. Once powered up, users can immediately access communication via the provided tablet, all within minutes.

High-speed data transfer and priority data
Unlike radio or phones, the WiFi access point in the CommsBox system allows relief teams to use multi-media communications to convey the needs of the area to central relief operations.
To combat the possible network overload, the CommsBox has the first-priority connection with high speeds of up to 55Mbps for communications with family and loved ones, aid recovery efforts, and connect with the outside world.

Military-grade Frame
Given the frequent earthquakes and typhoons in Kacific's markets, which often disrupt infrastructure, we designed the CommsBox to be easily transportable and durable to ensure continued functionality in rugged terrain.
Made with a water and heat-resistant military-grade frame, the Commsbox can operate rain or shine. A simple drainage system inside ensures rainwater is drained if the weather continues to be unforgiving.
For easy transportation, the Commsbox is fixed with four wheels underneath, and its weight is reduced by 40% by selecting strong, durable, and light aluminium panels to protect the system instead of steel.

Independent system with renewable energy
To future-proof the CommsBox, we ensured it can power up independently of a fixed electrical supply by installing built-in solar panels on all four sides. These flexible solar panels are securely attached to the military-grade cover, providing durability and resistance against extreme conditions during natural disasters.

Additionally, the CommsBox is equipped with a 100AH battery, which can be charged externally, ensuring optimal power usage throughout the day and reliable operation even in areas with unreliable power sources. This design guarantees that the CommsBox remains functional when it's needed most.

The impact of the innovation
As the Asia-Pacific region is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and will continue to face the threat of worsened climate change, self-contained disaster recovery systems like the CommsBox can work a long way in helping the local governments, ministries, and the region's growing populations to respond more effectively to natural disasters.

CommsBox Ultra: A Game-Changer in Disaster Communication
In response to the growing demand for reliable communication during natural disasters, Kacific introduced the CommsBox Ultra in early 2024. Building on the success of the original CommsBox, the Ultra model offers enhanced features such as an auto-polarization antenna, detachable modules, transport wheels, and a removable battery, ensuring rapid and efficient deployment in critical situations.

For this category please provide

An essay of up to 625 words describing the nominated innovative achievements since July 1 2022, **OR** a video of up to five (5) minutes in length illustrating the same.

Optional (but highly recommended), a collection of supporting files and web addresses that you may upload to our server to support your entry and provide more background information to the judges.

Credits

Supporting web addresses:

Capacity Media has handpicked Kacific CommsBox to be the Top 5 products to watch out for on 4th May, alongside other significant technology updates that day: https://www.capacitymedia.com/article/2a1w5sr2w3f4l9l4f20w0/news/five-things-to-watch-may-4-5g-voice-users-to-surge-dish-and-samsung-team-on-open-ran

The innovative Kacific CommsBox solution has been picked up by various trade media, and Kacific has since been interviewed to share more about CommsBox and the inception of CommsBox:

https://www.satelliteevolutiongroup.com/magazines/GlobalIssue-May2022.pdf

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q79ddfT7vJE

Launch of CommsBox: https://kacific.com/blog/news/kacific-launches-commsbox-an-all-in-one-transportable-wifi-communications-solution-for-disaster-relief/
CommsBox Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXc3cMjfM7I&list=PLPFFJtKhNY1FTBKhSTAbwTRk5ZUO4-c21&index=10

Case studies of the innovation:
The deployment of Kacific CommsBox has significantly enhanced disaster resilience in multiple nations, ensuring reliable communication and response capabilities for governments, first responders, medical teams, and disaster recovery units. Since 2022, we have sold over 20 sets to the Government of Fiji, the Indonesian army, and Local Government Units in the Philippines for national resilience efforts against future disasters. Below are some key testimonials highlighting the impact of CommsBox in various crises:

1. Ensuring connectivity during crises: Commsbox deployment across the Philippines
Kacific, in partnership with Stellarsat Solutions, has assisted the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), which serves as the first responder to connectivity challenges during disasters in deploying 17 CommsBox units across all 17 regions of the Philippines. This initiative ensures reliable communication in emergencies, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach areas where connectivity is often limited or unavailable.

Link: https://kacific.com/blog/news/dict-enhances-emergency-government-communication-across-the-philippines-with-nationwide-commsbox-deployment/

2. Kacific supports DICT's emergency response in Catanduanes
In response to Philippine President Marcos' call for immediate action following Super Typhoon Pepito, DICT deployed two Kacific CommsBox units to restore communication in affected areas. The units enabled up to 100 users to access free WiFi, playing a vital role in the disaster response.

Kacific's technology continues to strengthen disaster response efforts, ensuring connectivity in even the most remote areas of the Philippines.

Link: https://technology.inquirer.net/138764/dict-deploys-equipment-as-marcos-rallies-help-for-catanduanes

3. Kacific Demonstrates CommsBox at National Disaster Awareness Week
At the opening of National Disaster Awareness Week in Suva, Kacific, in collaboration with Telecom and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), showcased the CommsBox. The live demonstration featured mock Emergency Operations Centers powered by CommsBox units, with a drill across Suva involving schools and organizations. The event was aired live at Albert Park, highlighting Kacific's role in enhancing disaster preparedness.

Link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=887908075552936

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URL 9

URL 10

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