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Taking things for granted

We tend to go through life taking things for granted. Take natural resources for example. I am sure there are plenty of people like me that drive their car, fill up with petrol and not give a seconds thought as to how that fuel got there.

The demand on our world's natural resources are greater than ever and they are being depleted at an incredible rate. The oil extractors, mining outfits and the exploration companies are all having to work harder and longer to find and extract sources of metals, minerals and fossil fuels. This means going further and further afield into isolated and untouched regions - regions without basic communications. But how important is communication to these remote operations?

Vital in fact! The mining sector and oil & gas industries are highly regulated and controlled - complying with a great deal of regulatory points. Therefore, the need for efficient and reliable communications between sites is critical. When operating in very remote areas, a natural choice of connectivity for these companies is satellite technology. In fact, in many instances, it is the only logical option to deliver the high quality of communications that are required. But what about the cost?

It is a balancing act for companies – because with the price of oil and minerals at a low point, saving money and streamlining operations to make them highly efficient is at the forefront of any company's mind. Clearly the answer is a blend of technologies to keep costs down without compromising on connectivity needs.

There are different phases in the process of establishing and operating a remote site and they all require different types and combinations of communications. However, the two requirements that companies absolutely must have are reachback communications, so that they may connect to their enterprise network; and onsite communications, so that they may connect with workers and machines through M2M applications.

So spare a thought next time you fill up your car with fuel. A lot of time, effort and communications technology goes into delivering a resource you take for granted.



Photo courtesy Stephen Codrington and Wikipedia

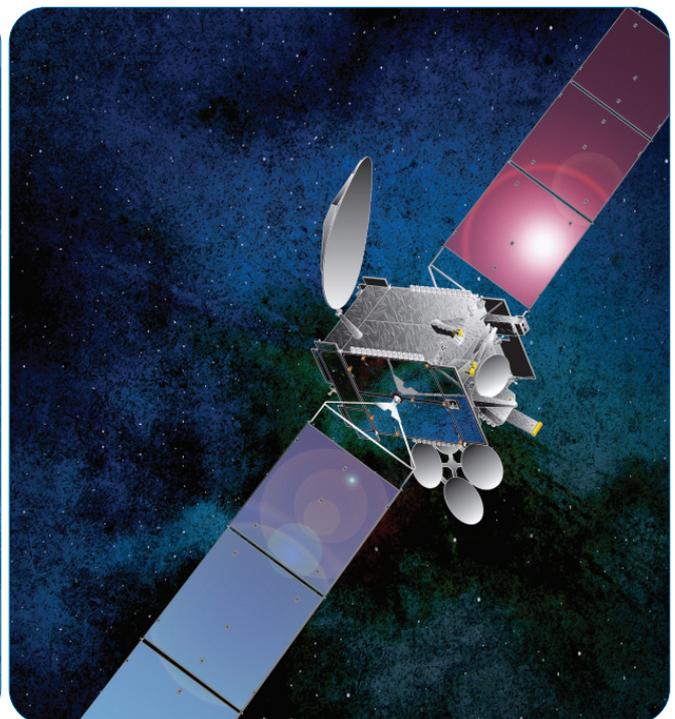


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