

HITS

HIGH INTEGRITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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No.1

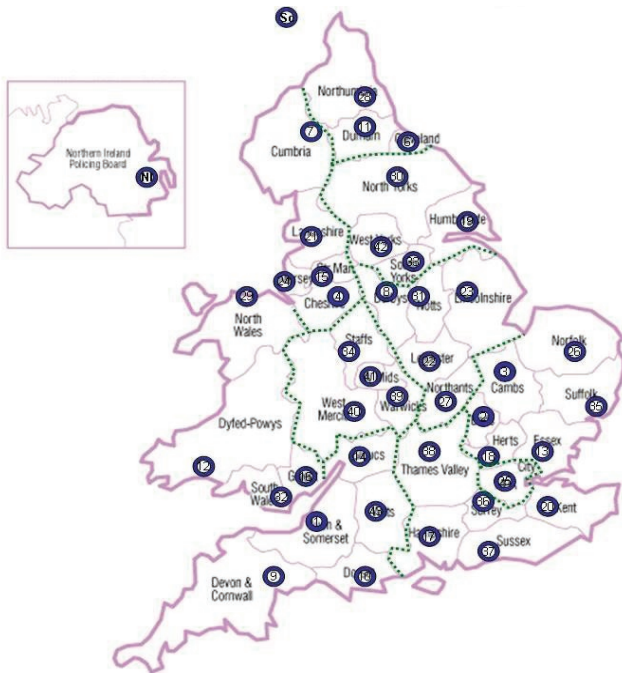
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WHY?

There are many potential causes for disruption and failure of national telecommunications, and never before has the UK been so reliant on telecommunications. Since the obsolete Emergency Communications Network (ECN) was decommissioned there has been a need to set up a **resilient and independent** telecommunications system that will still function when the main networks (such as landlines and mobile phones) are unavailable or degraded. HITS is designed to provide this essential service and will allow communication between National, Regional and Local levels of crisis coordination during almost all disruptive events.

WHERE?

The map below shows where it is anticipated that the core HITS sites will be located:



WHAT?

HITS is a satellite-based independent communications system that will use the advanced Skynet 5 military network. There will also be terrestrial connections to increase redundancy at most sites. It will be accredited to RESTRICTED and will allow digital transmission of both voice and data. Fixed sites will be located across the UK, supported by Transportable equipment that can be deployed as required. Each site will have a satellite dish installed along with the necessary electronics, including laptops and digital phones (some sites may have "Boxed" equipment instead of a permanent dish). The supplier is Paradigm Secure Communications Ltd.

WHO?

The core HITS network will be installed mainly in Police Strategic Command Centres (SCCs) across England and Wales. There will be one HITS site per Police Force Area. In addition, each of the Devolved Administrations will have HITS installed at an appropriate site. Core HITS will also include Central Government Crisis Management Facilities such as COBR. Expansion of the system in later phases of the rollout is currently being assessed.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please visit the HITS website for more details:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/HITS

If you have any questions please contact the HITS Team at HITS@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

WHEN? HITS will be developed and tested during 2009, with IOC (Initial Operating Capability) currently scheduled for mid-November 2009. Full rollout of HITS should be complete by mid 2012.



For the latest version of this factsheet, please contact the HITS Team via email on: HITS@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk