

SMC Networks assists in carving out unique IT path in Garden Route

High-tech, complex network installation, using SMC Network technology, at internationally acclaimed Thesen Islands development in Knysna

Residents at Thesen Islands, an award winning, up-market security village/complex along the Garden Route, South Africa, will be amongst the first in Knysna to benefit from in-house digital connectivity and access to Information Technology - as a result of a high-tech, broadband IP Network installation by local network services provider Eden Telecom.

The coastal network installation project, initiated by the Thesen Islands Development Company, in conjunction with Eden Telecom, made use of SMC Network technology.

Egge Mulder, Managing Director at Eden Telecom, says the installation could be considered a landmark project in terms of the convergence of voice, video and data on home networking/Multiple Dwelling Unit infrastructure.

“Not too long ago These Islands consisted of nothing more than an industrial site. A team of visionary developers, under hefty public protest, turned it into a ‘seaside paradise’. It has been called “the best place to live in South Africa” “with a very unique Broadband service to boot!” comments Mulder.

Eden Telecom sourced a significant portion of the technology for the installation from SMC Networks South Africa including standard Ethernet and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) or Internet Telephony. The network solutions provider also assisted directly in the integration of VDSL technology and related services.

“The access portion of the network is up 99.999% of the time - in fact, one of our previous SMC VDSL deployments, consisting of 283 units, has been up and running for over three years, I cannot even remember a problem or unscheduled downtime specifically attributable to the access equipment,” says Mulder.

Eden Telecom was selected to come on board because of its level of expertise, its market experience and knowledge of next-generation telecommunications and wireless infrastructure.

“We are privileged to be associated with a number of forward-thinking individuals, designers and real estate developers, who were early adopters of a global movement back in time towards a “Village” type community. This is a place where people live, work and play in their own back yard. The ‘Information Super Highway’ enables people to live in such a place but also to be connected to the global village,” Mulder continues.

“The network is vast, connecting 650 residential and commercial units and is best described as a multi-discipline incorporated into a single environment.

Both fixed and mobile Broadband service is available throughout the development.”

“I believe the technologies we are deploying right now will be more than sufficient for at least the next five years. It will take a few years before it becomes economically viable to purchase a wholesale 100Mbps Tier One link in order to offer this kind of Internet service to the end user, even though our access networks are already capable of delivering these speeds. In the mean time, it is perfect for supplying localised value added services like CCTV, VOIP and Video on demand over a campus type network,” he adds. “The video is used specifically for security purposes and is streamed to a central point and monitored twenty four hours a day, obviously requiring higher than normal bandwidth.”

Eden Telecom opted to install a mixed bag of technologies from suppliers like SMC Networks South Africa and had to face the challenge of having to attract and retain the skills to support a multi-discipline environment.

“This is definitely our biggest challenge but we have a couple of things going for us: first of all, we live in Knysna, so almost everyone would love to move here. Secondly, we have a very unique and exciting work environment; every day is different with new toys to play with. Because of our unique environment, you just can't find people with a complete skill set. We train on the job and I personally consider an applicant's attitude to be the determining attribute. It has been a long and hard process to assemble the right individuals but we have finally managed to put together an outstanding team,” says Mulder.

Paul Luff, country manager at SMC Networks, says the company is very pleased to be part of a “substantial, ground-breaking contribution to local networking adoption and usage”.

“SMC Networks is positioned to add value to local network infrastructure investment and installation. We do have the latest available solutions that ideally match requirements within the SOHO environment, especially in so far as it applies to wireless LAN connectivity between structures. In the case of Thesen Islands the decision to apply VoIP and VDSL infrastructure is a milestone in domestic networking infrastructure use and investment. We are proud to have contributed towards the process and my feeling is that this bolsters the country's general adoption of home networking solutions and connectivity,” adds Luff.

END

About SMC Networks

SMC Networks is a leading provider of LAN hardware and broadband connectivity devices.

Globally, SMC Networks leverages manufacturing resources and strategic

relationships to bring to market a growing range of affordable, leading-edge products; including Gigabit and Fast Ethernet Switching, Wireless networking, Broadband connectivity products as well as traditional wired network adapters.

SMC Networks specialises in solutions for the SMB/e, and the home. Worldwide, SMC delivers network solutions through an infrastructure of VAR partners, ISPs and retailers.

SMC contacts:

Paul Luff
Country Manager
083 450 8920
Paul.Luff@smc.com

PR contact:

Chris Tredger
MicroZone
(012) 803-6335
082-683-6391
chris@micro-zone.co.za