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Cel-Fi signal boosters turned one bar of mobile signal to a stable 5 bars at the home of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.

Background

Wakefield Fire Station has historically struggled to get good mobile coverage in their buildings, particularly on the corporate EE network. When preparation for the construction of the new Wakefield Fire Station was initiated, they needed a trusted partner to provide them with a robust and reliable mobile coverage solution.

The Business

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue services are based out of the Wakefield Fire Station. The original buildings were constructed in 1963 and no longer fit for purpose. In May 2019, the buildings were demolished to make way for the new, energy-efficient £2.9m fire station. The new fire station offers a state-of-the-art facility, crewed by full-time firefighters who provide emergency cover 24/7 for the county.

The Challenge

The site in Wakefield is made up of multiple buildings across the 26,000 ft² site. Mobile coverage is imperative for operational purposes, health and safety, emergency business continuity and cross-service communications. The site was known to have poor mobile coverage and with the construction of the new facility, they had the opportunity to rectify this.

The main requirements for the mobile signal solution were that it had to enhance EE mobile network coverage across the site and not interfere with existing communication and wireless products in the facility.

The Solution and Result

Before construction of the new fire station started, the IT team from the Fire Service contacted Frequency to discuss the need for reliable in-building mobile coverage.

Frequency had several consultations and advisory meetings with the client and main contractor who provided access to the architectural site plans. The Cel-Fi SOLO solution was proposed as the best fit and most cost-effective solution to deliver enhanced mobile signal based on size and layout of the building.

CEL-FI™ SOLO

The Cel-Fi SOLO Smart Signal Booster solution provides up to 100dB of gain for voice and data in 16,000 ft² /1,500 m² indoor space per system. The self-organising edge intelligence ensures that Cel-Fi SOLO do not interfere with other indoor wireless products such as Wi-Fi routers, Small Cells, and Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS).

A site survey was arranged to qualify the external mobile signal readings and to confirm the deployment approach. With a mix of core fire and rescue equipment already in situ, the Cel-Fi SOLO signal booster equipment had to be placed in specific locations to maximum signal gain whilst simultaneously causing minimal disruption to site operations.

Both the site survey and installation of the solution was performed by Boost Pro Systems, one of Frequency's Cel-Fi certified and approved installation partners. The project was overseen by the lead contractor on site, Murray Building Services Ltd.

The project was signed off by the client with the EE signal having increased from 1 bar of signal, before completion, to a steady 5 bars throughout the fire station.

Boost Pro has provided telecommunication solutions to thousands of sites across the UK since 2014. Working in sectors ranging from healthcare, to construction, to agriculture, Boost Pro Systems are at the forefront of the telecommunication industry. The team at Boost Pro pride themselves in always using the latest cutting-edge technology to provide innovative solutions to their clients.

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Frequency Telecom is the Master Distributor of Nextivity's Cel-Fi range of mobile signal boosters in the UK and Ireland. Cel-Fi products are licence-exempt and fully meets the regulatory requirements in the UK (Ofcom SI 2018/399) and Ireland (ComReg S.I.No.283 of 2018). Frequency has successfully installed indoor mobile signal solutions at the NHS, Pure Offices, BBC, Hotel Chocolat, Lincoln Epic Showground, Premier League and many others.

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Headquartered in San Diego, Nextivity Inc. develops the award-winning line of Cel-Fi products that optimize cellular coverage in homes, office and enterprise buildings. Cel-Fi products are self-configuring and leverage the advanced signal-processing and radio design of Nextivity's IntelliBoost chipset to deliver the industry's highest gain at the lowest cost per square foot. The Cel-Fi commitment is to protect the operator's network, deliver the best in-building mobile performance, and be the easiest solution to install.