



# MATANUSKA TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION SYMMETRY SMS AND ENVIS PROTECT MTA'S CRITICAL COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA) provides its members state-of-the-art, reliable and competitively-priced communications, superior customer service, a voice in governance, capital credit allocations/distributions, and support for local, community, and economic development. MTA's service area extends across nearly 10,000 square miles of Alaska's wilderness - south to Eagle River, north to Anderson, east to Glacier View, and west to Skwentna. MTA also has 3 consumer stores located in Palmer, Eagle River, and Wasilla, Alaska.

MTA invests in the highest quality and most advanced products available in the industry, including extensive fiber optic cabling and electronic platforms to support broadband signals such as digital subscriber loop (DSL). These products must remain secure to provide MTA customers with the best communication products. To help provide these state-of-the-art products to Alaska residents, MTA invested heavily in its security program over the years to protect not only MTA's main headquarters, two retail stores and approximately 10 central offices, but also to secure its 100+ unmanned communication huts located throughout southern Alaska. Security throughout this vast area communicates over MTA's Wide Area Network (WAN) to provide one seamless security system for all locations.

## Headquarters/Retail/Central Offices

MTA's Cary Clark, facilities maintenance technician and his partner David Downey, also a facilities maintenance technician, self install G4S Technology's Symmetry Professional Security Management System and Symmetry Video system to operate over the WAN.

The MTA headquarters houses a retail store, as well as all inside and outside sales, engineering, drafting, IT, retail customer service, construction, a call center and upper management. The Symmetry SMS and Symmetry Video system controls access throughout the buildings and three Pelco cameras monitor the lobby. Symmetry ENVIS monitors employees and merchandise to provide an extra layer of security in the two new retail outlets. The stores are open late and the cameras help keep the mostly female staff safe while they are closing the store and walking to their car, providing an extra layer of security.

Approximately 100 central office buildings throughout southern Alaska house the large scale phone equipment, battery plants and system backups for the designated area. Two to five doors are protected with a Symmetry proximity reader. The main doors allow everyone through, while other doors within the offices restrict access to authorized users.



“G4S has a wonderful product and everything has gone really well,” said Clark. “The product is almost bullet proof once you get it installed. The readers operate anywhere from 100 degrees above zero to 50 below.”

### Communication Huts

Approximately 100 small huts (10' x 12') pepper southern Alaska. The small DSL huts house phone equipment, but mostly they are an extension of a central office to help manage Internet and television communication. Each hut has a flashed M1400 panel and Symmetry 670 Proximity reader. MTA's broadband infrastructure provides the communications with the Symmetry Professional SMS head-end.

“The huts are located in some of the harshest environments in the world,” said Symmetric Interconnect Systems Inc.'s President, Jeff Trick, the project's G4S distributor. “MTA hasn't had a reader fail yet, and it's 50 degrees below zero in the winter – a very unique environment.” A heating strip with wires is adhered to the inside of the reader with a weather-proofing gasket kit. It is wired to a power source and keeps the Symmetry proximity reader warm. When the temperature falls to a certain level, the heater activates. Everyone utilizes their proximity card to gain entrance, and the huts are monitored through reader activity. Reader history displays who has been in the hut and the time. When that person leaves the hut, Symmetry shows when the door was opened from the inside, and the time they left.

Door sensors are tied into the building controls and show if someone was trying to access a hut. Sensors enter the system as an alarm. If there is an alarm after 4:00 p.m., it's forwarded to a dispatch center that is manned 24/7. If an alarm sounds in the middle of the night, Clark or Downey investigates it.

“If a reader is knocked off the door, the door remains locked,” said MTA's Facilities Maintenance Technician, Cary Clark. “If power is lost, the doors remain locked. The only big challenge we've had is kids turning off the power, and we have backup power with the batteries.” SiS' Great Service Symmetric Interconnect Systems (SiS) is a distribution entity that services its dealer group (SiS Dealer Group) and its' customers in the western United States and Alaska. SiS' comprehensive experience with G4S's Symmetry Security Management System and Symmetry Video system made SiS the perfect service provider for MTA. “SiS' and Jeff Trick has done a really good job providing service to us,” said Clark. “I always get what I need.”

### Pleased with Results

“G4S has a wonderful product and everything has gone really well,” said Clark. “The product is almost bullet proof once you get it installed. The readers operate anywhere from 100 degrees above zero to 50 below.” MTA is extremely happy with their Symmetry Security Management System with Symmetry Video/ENVS. Symmetry's reliability and scalability provide the precise level of security needed. MTA is so pleased, they will be adding 25 buildings and more communication huts in the near future.



**G4S Technology**  
www.g4stechnology.com