



# Thuraya Monitoring System



# Thuraya Monitoring System

# 1- The Thuraya Personal Satellite Communications System

The Thuraya network has been in operation since early 2001, and is currently based on the Thuraya-2 geostationary satellite in an inclined orbit at a longitude of approximately 44° East. The Thuraya system provides telecommunications coverage to Europe, North, Central and some parts of Southern Africa, the Middle East, West and Central Asia, and the Asian Subcontinent, including more than 110 countries. Using a reduced capacity Thuraya-1 satellite at 98° East, provides some areas of the Far-East. In January 2007 the Thuraya-3 satellite was launched into the current location of the Thuraya-1 satellite, this new satellite has extended the coverage area of the Thuraya network to areas of Central and Eastern Russia and the Far East, including the eastern and south-eastern areas of mainland Asia, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea.



# Figure 1 – Map Showing Current Commercial Coverage from the Thuraya-2 Satellite

Since its introduction, the Thuraya system has proven to be extremely popular and exceeded the 150,000 subscriber barrier by the mid-2003, and it is estimated to currently have in the region of 340,000 subscribers Thuraya forecast that they will ultimately achieve 1.75 million subscribers. One of its main appeals is to people living or traveling in the remote areas of Africa, the Middle East and Asia, where terrestrial infrastructure is not in place. The Thuraya network is designed to support 13,750 simultaneous telephone calls, and in some countries typical call levels are known to exceed 2,000 calls per hour.



# 2- The Strategic Thuraya Monitoring System

# 2.1- Principles of the Strategic Thuraya Monitoring System Operation

The strategic Thuraya Monitoring System (TMS) offered by TRL is designed to passively intercept downlinks from the Thuraya satellite at C-Band and L-Band.



An L-Band antenna receives transmissions from the network to the Thuraya handset (MES), and a C-band antenna receives transmissions from the Thuraya handset to the network via the satellite.

The new system is designed to provide full duplex call interception and recording for all calls passing through a cluster of seven spotbeams centered on the geographical location of the installed system. It may be possible to perform duplex call intercept on other nearby spotbeams, but this cannot be guaranteed due to frequency reuse implemented on the Thuraya network at L-Band.

Additionally, with the inclusion of the optional Transportable Remote L-Band Monitoring System, all calls passing through an additional cluster of seven spotbeams centered on the geographical position of the remote system, may be intercepted and recorded.

In addition to the call intercept, the strategic TMS has the capability to monitor call activity for all spotbeams transmitted by the Thuraya satellite, by receiving the C-band signaling information. The proposed system has the capacity to monitor 25 such spotbeams.

Where the system is able to perform C- and L-Band monitoring of a given spotbeam, the following data is recorded by the system for every call:

- Date and time of the call
- A 4 or 5 digit subset of the IMSI of the MES
- The GPS position of the MES
- The telephone number dialled by the MES (in Mobile Originated calls only)
- The TMSI of the MES
- The Ciphering Key Sequence Number
- The RAND
- The SRES
- The Encryption Algorithm implement on the call



• The system also produces a computer file of the call that was recorded; this file is available for offline analysis

ie Edit i	Jew Help
	8 2 <mark>4 4 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 </mark>
001.236	NM: CM Service Request
001,236	CMServiceType = MO Call/Packet Mode Connection establish
001.236	CipheringKeySeqNo = 2
001.236	MESClassmark2 Info:
001.236	RevisionLevel = 1
001.236	TerminalType = Handheld
001.236	A5/1 Algorithm = Supported
001.236	A5/2 Algorithm = Supported
001.236	A5/3 Algorithm = Supported
001.236	Classmark3 = Not available
001.236	IdentityType = TMSI
001.236	TMSI = 7A010547h
002.785	MM: Authentication Request
002,785	CipheringKeySeqNo = 3
002.785	BAND = [CE] [67] [C6] [97] [CB] (7F] [B6] [3B] (85] [AE] (00] [34] [46] [B0] [41] (93)
003.236	MM: Authentication Response
003.236	SRES = [D3][49][9C][6A]
004.585	RR: Ciphering Mode Command
004.585	CipherModeSetting = Cipher with algorithm A5/2
004.585	CipherResponse = Include IMEISV
004.585	PositionDisplay = Country/RegionName => ' UK '

Figure 3 – Information Available from an Intercepted Call before Encryption is Started

Where the system is only able to perform C-band monitoring of a given spotbeam, the following data is recorded by the system for every call:

- Date and time of call
- A 4 or 5 digit subset of the IMSI of the MES
- The GPS position of the MES
- The telephone number dialled by the MES (in Mobile Originated calls only)

For C-Band only monitoring, the call cannot be intercepted, and therefore no recording file is generated.

	1			Number of Events: 4	22	Qu
pick Bream ID	Time Received	Establishment Course	Postian	Establishment Course	Tel No	*
38	20/06/200514:00	Channel Request	27.8735N, 0.2983 W	Mobile Drigmated Call	+8821655992772	+8.5
98	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.8735N, 0.2983 W	Mobile Driginated Call	+8821658592772	
38 .	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Respect	27.6797 N. D.3066 W	Mobile Drignated Call	0021362907978	- Flefk
38	20/06/200514:08	Dramel Request	27.8865 N. 0.2863 W	Paging Response		
38	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.8707 N. 0.3066 W	Mobile Driginated Call	0021362907978	Equ
83	20/05/2005 14:00	Channel Flequent	27.0865N, 0.2663 W	Paging Response		
38	28/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.8707 N. D.3066 W	Mobile Drigmated Call	0021362907978	Par
33	20/06/2005 14:00	Chantel Request	27.6797 N; 0.3066 W	Mobile Driginal ad Call	0021362907578	
38	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.8707 N, 0.3068 W	Mobile Driginal ad Call	0021362907978	
38	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.8707N, 0.3065 W	Mobile Driginated Call	0021362907978	De
88	28/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.8765 N, 8.3069 W	Paging Response		
38	20/06/200514:00	Channel Request	27.8765 N. 0.3069 W	Paging Response		
38	20/06/2005 14:00	Chennel Request	27.2040 N, D.6896 W	Mobile Drignaled Call	21156-60	11
38	20/06/200514:00	Channel Request	27.2040 N. 0.8896 W	Mobile Driginated Call	21196460	
33	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Plequent	26.0212N, 1.3296 W	Mobile Driginated Call	+0821621168884	
38	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	26.0212N, 1.3396 W	Mobile Driginated Call	+8821621168654	
30	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Flequest	26.526210, 1.1402 E	Paging Response		
38	20/06/2005/14:00	Channel Request	265262N, 1.1482 E	Paging Response		
98	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.8807N, 0.2966 W	Mobile Driginated Call	074150600	
33	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.1480 N, 2.0709 E	Mobile Driginal ad Call	+8821621334832	
38	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.8765 N. 0.3049 W	Mobie Drigitaled Call	1055601EB2	
88	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	27.8807 N. 0.2968 W	Aleting Response		
46	20/1E/2015 14:00	L'hennel Hexpant	36.201819, 44 UT1 / E.	Mobile Ungenalled Call	005847/01/01474	
38	28/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	36.8655 N. 42.9882 E.	Lucation Update		
90	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	37.2071 N, 43.9021 E	Mobile Driginated Call	00105179900712	
38	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	36.3463 N. 42.1176 E	Mobile Drigmated Call	+8821621137982	
33	20/06/2005 14:00	Chained Flequent	37.0896N, 43.5681 E	Mobile Drigisated Call	07504551132	
38	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	36.2018 N. 44.0117 E	Mobile Originated Call	009647701791474	
38	20/06/200514:00	Channel Request	36.86551N, 42.9686 E	Supplementaty Services		
38	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	36.1781 N. 44 0223 E	Mobile Driginated Cell	009647901419747	
38	28/06/200514:00	Channel Request	36.2018N, 44.0117 E	Mobie Drigisated Call	009647701781474	
88	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Flequent	36.0464N, 41.7110 E	Alerting Response		
8	26/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	36 4085 N 43 1170 E	Mobie Drigsated Cal	00963212115567	
83	20/1E/2005 14:00	Channel Flequent	27.0896 N, 43.5681 E	Mobile Drigitalized Call	0750450/020	
38	28/06/2005 14:00	Chonnel Required	37.8992 N. 44.2925 E	Paging Response		E Deta
33	20/06/2005 14:00	Channel Request	37 2071 N, 43 9829 E	Paging Response		* P364

\* See "Recoverable File Types" below



# Figure 4 – Information Received from C-Band Monitoring

# 2.2- Decryption

TRL has now identified, tested and verified the functionality of a Thuraya Cryptanalysis and Decryption device provided by a third-party company. This company is a proven supplier of passive GSM monitoring systems including A5/2 cryptanalysis and decryption. The Thuraya cryptanalysis and decryption unit is their complete solution, developed as a result of determining the Thuraya encryption algorithm and developing their existing GSM cryptanalysis product to process the Thuraya traffic.

This solution when connected to the Strategic Thuraya Monitoring System provides the capability for the play-back of audio voice calls and the display of the SMS, fax and data sessions.

# 2.2.1- Additional Functionality Available with a Cryptanalysis Solution

With the Thuraya cryptanalysis and decryption solution integrated with the strategic TMS, the following additional information becomes available from calls intercepted in a full duplex C and L-band monitoring system:

- Human Comprehensible Call Content. This would include live and archived stereo audio playback of voice calls, and presentation of decoded SMS and fax. Additionally, a range of commercial data protocols would also be supported for decoding data transmitted over the Thuraya network.
- **MES IMEI**. The IMEI of the MES would be recorded, significantly enhancing the ability to identify and track particular Thuraya terminals.
- **Calling Line Identity Presentation** (CLIP). The telephone number of call originator would be available on some calls. In particular, the telephone number of the land-line in fixed originated calls, and the telephone number of both parties in a Thuraya terminal to terminal call would become available.

Cryptographic and Cryptanalysis technology is subject to export control by the governments of many Western countries, including the United Kingdom. Upon development of a GMR-1 cryptanalysis solution, any European or North American developer would be obliged to apply to their respective governments for permission to export the solution.

# 2.3- A Typical Strategic Thuraya Monitoring System

A typical TMS system would include:

- Full duplex interception of Thuraya calls for terminals located within the same spotbeam as the monitoring system, and up to 6 spotbeams immediately adjacent to that central spotbeam
- Antenna system, including a 9.3m C-Band antenna and demodulator subsystem for monitoring of up to 1088 simultaneous calls in the area covered by the main installation – including GPS co-ordinates of mobile terminals
- Analysis subsystem, complete with 6 server computers and 8 analysis workstations complete with TMS analysis software
- Full Operator, Administrator and Maintainer training programs, held both at TRL and at the customer's site if required
- Comprehensive operation and support documentation
- Full warranty for the first year
- The option of a Remote L-Band Unit, to extend the interception coverage of the monitoring system, to another group of up to 7 spotbeams anywhere within the Thuraya coverage
- C-band Only monitoring of Terminal activity in any Thuraya spotbeam on the satellite. Up to 35 spotbeams can be monitored in the default configuratio This monitoring provides



the GPS position and the dialed telephone numbers for all Thuraya phones operating in the spotbeams of interest

The proposed strategic Thuraya Monitoring System comprises 3 subsystems, each are described below:

#### 2.3.1- RF/IF Subsystem

The RF/IF subsystem receives the downlink signals from the Thuraya satellite that are intended for the MES and the PGW. It includes the following components:

#### **Outdoor Equipment**

- 9.3m Diameter C-Band Earth Station Antenna
- Flat Plate L-Band Antenna

Low Noise Amplifiers are included with all antennas, as well as Inter-Facility Cabling between the Antennas and the Customer Supplied Equipment Room. The 9.3m C-Band Antenna is fully motorized.



Figure 5 – Typical C-Band Antenna

- Satellite Tracking Antenna Controller
- Satellite Beacon Tracking Receiver
- 4 C-Band Synthesized Tuneable Downconverters
- 1 L-Band Synthesis Tuneable Downconverter
- RF/IF Signal Distribution
- 10 MHz GPS Corrected Station Frequency Reference
- Uninterruptible Power Supply

The above indoor equipment is supplied installed in a 19" rack cabinet.

# 2.3.2- Demodulator Subsystem

The demodulator subsystem receives the satellite signals from the RF/IF subsystem at IF, and demodulates them. It includes the following:

• Demodulator Cards. A sufficient number of demodulator cards will be supplied in order to perform dual C- and L-band monitoring and call intercept of all traffic on up to seven spotbeams surrounding the monitoring station, as well as C-band only monitoring for at



least 10 other spotbeams. If the optional Remote L-Band Monitoring System is also ordered, then the strategic system will be fitted with additional demodulator cards to provide C-band monitoring and call intercept for the spotbeams monitored by the remote system. The demodulator cards are fitted in to card racks, each housing 12 cards.

- Ethernet Switch
- Uninterruptible Power Supply

All components of the Demodulator Subsystem are supplied installed in a 19" rack cabinet.



Figure 6 – Typical TMS Equipment

#### 2.3.3- Analysis Subsystem

The analysis subsystem configures the demodulator subsystem according to the User's operational requirements. It receives the satellite signals from the Demodulator subsystem via an Ethernet network, and stores them in the server computers. The analysis software performs decoding and de-multiplexing of the received signals and interprets them providing the User with information about the traffic on the Thuraya network as described in Section X2.1X. The software includes a geographical mapping interface based on the ESRI standard ArcGIS software, and displays the positions of the MESs making calls on the Thuraya network, as well as information related to the available spotbeams on a map.





Figure 7 – Sample Map Generated from C-band Monitoring Data

The Analysis Subsystem includes the following components:

# 19" Rack Mounted

- Server Computers
- Keyboard, Video, Mouse (KVM) Drawer
- KVM Switch
- Ethernet Switch
- Uninterruptible Power Supply

#### **Free Standing**

- Workstation Computers with 19" LCD TFT Flat Screen Monitors
- Uninterruptible Power Supply Units

It is assumed that suitable buildings, civil works and electrical power is to be provided by the customer, and therefore is not included within the scope of this proposal.

Training is provided in the administration, operation and maintenance of the system both at TRL facilities, and at the customer site upon completion of the system installation.

The strategic TMS is supplied with a full spares pack to reduce potential system downtime in the event of a component failure.

The TMS has a modular design allowing all aspects to be scaled to meet customer requirements.

\* See "Recoverable File Types" below



# **Remote L-Band Thuraya Monitoring Expansion**

A Remote L-Band Thuraya Monitoring System (TMS) expands upon the amount of spotbeams that a strategic TMS can provide full duplex call intercept for.



Figure 8 – Map of the Thuraya Spotbeam Structure

The strategic TMS can provide full duplex monitoring for a cluster of up to seven spotbeams centered on its geographical location. The addition of a Remote L-Band TMS can extend this coverage to another cluster of up to seven spotbeams anywhere within the coverage area of the Thuraya satellite.

The Remote L-band TMS should be connected to the strategic TMS via an 'always on' connection, such as a Leased Line, WAN, or satellite link (e.g. VSAT). In this way the Remote L-band TMS acts in a similar way to the L-band part of the strategic TMS. Information is passed across the remote link to ensure that the interceptions of two monitoring systems are synchronized. TRL recommend the use of a VSAT link for remote areas, and can offer this as part of a 'turnkey' solution if required.

The Remote L-band TMS comprises the following components:

# **Outdoor Equipment**

• Flat Plate L-Band Antenna and Associated RF Cables

# Rack Mount Indoor Equipment

- L-band Downconverter
- 12 Demodulator Cards are supplied as standard, in most cases this will enable L-band monitoring and call intercept of all traffic on the seven spotbeams surrounding the remote monitoring station. The demodulator cards are fitted into card racks, each housing 12 cards
- Server computer
- Uninterruptible Power Supply
- Ethernet Switch
- \* See "Recoverable File Types" below



• A full spares pack is also included

# 4- The Semi-Strategic Thuraya Monitoring System

The Semi-Strategic TMS operates in the same way as the Strategic Thuraya monitoring system, except that it is designed to work with a trailer-mounted 4.6m C-band antenna. Because of the reduced size of the antenna, it is not capable of intercepting the call content, instead it is used to monitor Thuraya activity in any spotbeam, providing the operator with the GPS positions of Thuraya terminals active within the spotbeams of interest, and the telephone numbers being dialed by these terminals.

The Semi-Strategic TMS comprises the following components:

- 4.6m Trailer Mounted C-Band Antenna
- Satellite Tracking Antenna Controller
- Satellite Beacon Tracking Receiver
- 4 C-Band Synthesised Tuneable Downconverters
- RF/IF Signal Distribution
- 10 MHz GPS Corrected Station Frequency Reference
- Demodulator Cards. A sufficient number of demodulator cards will be supplied in order to perform C-band only monitoring for up to 12 spotbeams
- Ethernet Switch
- Server Computer loaded with TMS Server software
- Keyboard, Video, Mouse (KVM) Drawer
- Uninterruptible Power Supply
- Laptop computer loaded with TMS Client software

A full spares pack is also included.



Figure 9 – Typical Semi-Strategic TMS Antenna



# 5- The Tactical Thuraya Monitoring System

The tactical Thuraya Monitoring System operates in the same way as the strategic system, except that it only receives L-Band signals. In order for it to be able to intercept both side of a duplex call, as well as receiving the L-Band satellite downlink to the Thuraya terminal, it also receives the L-band uplink from the target terminal via radio line-of-sight.

The tactical system will intercept all of the same information available from a strategic system, but only for terminals with its radio line-of-sight. The range of the system can vary from up to 10 km in clear terrain and from an advantageous monitoring point, to as little as a few hundred meters in dense urban areas or inside buildings.

The tactical TMS comprises the following components:

- Flat Plate L-Band Satellite Downlink Antenna
- Flat Plate L-Band Target Downlink Antenna
- RF Cables
- Tactical TMS Chassis fitted with 6 Demodulator Cards, Ethernet Switch Card, IF/FRU Card, and a Dual Downconverter card
- Laptop Computer

A full spares pack is also included.



Figure 10 – Tactical Thuraya Monitoring System



# Thuraya Monitoring System Identities and information captured

In the following scenarios, the Thuraya terminal marked "1" is always assumed to be in the coverage area of the Thuraya Monitoring System (L&C Band):











# **Recoverable File Types**

Typical file types which will be recovered and viewable from e-mail attachments or file transfers (FTP) are as follows:-

Text files Web Pages Sound Files Pictures

Video clips Programs/applications Compressed files Application files, for Example Text, Rich text, Postscript, PDF Text, HTML Basic audio, x-aiff, wav Image files, gif, jpeg, pjppeg, tiff, x-png, x-bitmap bmp, x-jg, x-emf, x-wmf Avi, mpeg Base64, x-msdownload, octet-stream x-compressed, x-zip-compressed, x-gzip-compressed Microsoft Word documents Microsoft Excel spreadsheets Microsoft PowerPoint presentations Word perfect documents Lotus Notes documents



# **Protocols Supported**

# **Underlying Protocols**

The following Data Layer protocols are supported:

- SLIP
- PPP
- Synchronous
- PPP (Bit Stuffed Flag Frames)
- X Modem, Y MODEM

# **TCP/IP Protocols**

- HTTP (WWW)
- FTP (File Transfer)
- POP3 (e-mail)
- SMTP (e-mail)

# Modem Protocols (File Transfer)

- XMODEM,
- XMODEM-1K
- XMODEM-CRC
- YMODEM
- YMODEM-1K
- YMODEM-CRC

# 1. Screen shot showing call locations against physical map



\* See "Recoverable File Types" below





# 2. Mobiles displayed on standard mapping software supplied with TMS

#### 3. List View

N.H	ter 1											
1.kt	Piac									Note of Cents 509		
-	Spot 1	Ime Received	Subscitter(s)	Etablishment	Ca.26	Area Located	Tel No.	Free Carkstond	1	union	-	( Terrier
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#### 4. Split screen display showing new list view and associate map view

#### 5. Spotbeam map display - for system administration purpose









7. Event density map - showing areas of activity rather than individual calls.





8. Geo-location map screen – to set up geo-fence area to filter calls from a particular site of Interest



# 9. SMS View

Summary 5MS	Analysis	
Time Received	29/10/2006 20:39:34	Establishment Cause Short Message Service
A Direction	Party Tel. No	SM5 Text
Sent Sent	1522	Message: please send password for on-line top-up service.

# 10. Audio Player





#### 11. Fax View



# 12. Data View (POP3 example)

R HTMLViewer - C:Mn	x\10 51 15110 51 15.htm			🗢 Test alessage 📰 🗖 🔀
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