

Public Sector Network LINK Chooses MDNX Reliable Network

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Shared Services Network to Provide Economies of Scale to Public Sector Organisations Across Sussex Worth £20million

Bracknell, 30 January 2013 – MDNX, the UK's largest independent managed network services (<http://www.mdnx.com/>) provider, today announced it has been appointed as the LINK Network (<http://www.linksussex.org/>) supplier. The LINK is a collaborative ICT programme for public sector organisations across Sussex and surrounding areas. The seven year contract is expected to grow to be worth more than £20m, starting with the networks of East Sussex County Council (<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/default.htm>) (ESCC) and Brighton and Hove City Council (<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/>) (B&HCC).

The LINK Programme encourages the participation of all public sector bodies in Sussex, pooling demand and resources to drive better benefits. The LINK Network is an essential foundation of the programme. Working in partnership with MDNX, the LINK will deliver important savings and benefits by offering a common public sector network across the region.

The single network platform will be exploited to enable a range of future shared services and collaborative delivery. It will reduce the barriers to joining up services for citizens, such as “one stop shops”, and to sharing resources like telephony and datacentres to reduce costs.

ESCC and B&HCC will be first to transition to the LINK Network, moving their council, library and school services to the LINK in a focussed twelve-month transition plan to achieve direct savings of more than £2 million. A number of other public sector organisations in the area are already in advanced discussions to migrate their networks to the LINK Network.

MDNX will deploy a powerful network to deliver economies of scale across Sussex. The secure carrier-grade core will run multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) using the existing MDNX 10Gbps resilient network. The network contract is structured to allow MDNX to drive best value and performance across the region by using a range of providers.

“Network integration enables networks both fixed and wireless to be designed freely by selecting the optimum infrastructure provider and technology option for each location. This achieves the necessary performance, resilience, security and cost requirements, all within the Public Service Network (PSN) framework,” says Wayne Churchill, chief operating officer at MDNX. “This approach opens the door to other public sector partners in Sussex being able to easily join the LINK and enjoy the benefits of these shared services.”

“This exciting project not only gives us a better and more flexible network platform, it is a major driver to support closer working between partners in healthcare, emergency services, education and local government,” Tony Summers, CIO at ESCC highlighted. “Using an integrator gives us the flexibility to switch to new technology and new carrier services as they become available and as our needs evolve. This approach lets us build a relationship with a supplier partner, without being tied to a fixed solution,

which is vital in the dynamic environment we face.”

“Through a well-established LINK Governance Structure, the spirit of collaboration in Sussex has already been harnessed to deliver concrete benefits,” said Paul Colbran, CIO at B&HCC. “The LINK provides common standards, simplified management and interoperability. The LINK will provide us with a flexible, secure foundation for cross sector ICT collaboration and give us a strong platform for the future.”

The procurement of Link Voice telephony services is expected to conclude shortly, and the planning for the development of other key services using the same joint working approach is well advanced.

About The LINK

The LINK is a collaborative programme driven and governed by its stakeholders. It is open and inclusive, encouraging the participation of all public sector bodies in Sussex, and working in partnership with its suppliers to deliver optimal outcomes for citizens.

The LINK targets ICT areas where pooling demand can drive out benefits for its members. The LINK Network is designed to grow from a strong base to allow all public sector and trusted partners to quickly join and enjoy the cost benefits of these shared services.

About MDNX

Headquartered in Bracknell, Berkshire, MDNX manages some of the most technically complex and challenging networks for major public and private sector organisations in the UK. It integrates all major carriers in the UK via resilient links into its core integration network, enabling the design, build and management of solutions and services unrestricted by individual carrier network and product set limitations. MDNX has been appointed to the PSN Framework and is DNSP Accredited. For more information visit www.mdnx.com

About Public Services Network

The Public Services Network (PSN) is the foundation for the Government ICT Strategy. PSN will substantially reduce the cost of communication services across UK Government and enable new, joined-up and shared public services for the benefit of citizens. PSN is creating one logical network, based on industry standards, and a more open and competitive ICT marketplace at the heart of UK Public Sector.

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