Deploying idDAS™
Berlin Fanmile - Partnering with Vodafone and Telefónica to keep Berlin connected on New Year’s Eve
Cobham Wireless worked with Vodafone and Telefónica to provision the world’s first idDAS system, and provide one million partygoers with reliable coverage during New Year’s Eve 2015 along Berlin’s famous Fan Mile.

The area comes with strict planning regulations prohibiting the use of visible cellular equipment, yet it sees footfall from a huge number of attendees at the large events it plays host to throughout the year.

The Fan Mile has traditionally proven to be an extremely challenging environment when it comes to the provision of reliable cellular coverage and capacity.

“idDAS - facilitating a street party attended by one million people”
The Challenge

Stretching through the centre of Berlin, the Fan Mile is a mile-long length of road running between two of the city’s most famous sites: Brandenburg Gate and the Victory Column.

Although the Fan Mile is a fully functioning road on most days in the year, it turns into a huge gathering of people every time it plays host to public viewing events and celebrations, such as for the recent Brazil World Cup or to celebrate New Year’s Eve.

The challenge to provide reliable coverage and capacity is two-fold; the area comes with strict planning regulations, yet it plays host to hundreds of thousands of visitors throughout the year.

Leading mobile operators, Vodafone and Telefónica, wanted to provision seamless, reliable coverage along the Fan Mile, in time to help the crowds celebrate New Year’s Eve – but faced with such challenges, they needed a solution that could overcome these restrictions while ensuring it was scalable, futureproof, and of course, all within budget.

“idDAS brings significant cost-savings”
The Solution and Benefits

Vodafone and Telefónica chose to use idDAS to provide reliable cellular coverage along the length of the Fan Mile which brought about multiple benefits for the operators and their customers.

idDAS allowed for multi-band and multi-operator coverage, meaning users would now receive both UMTS and high-bandwidth LTE coverage on the thoroughfare for the first time.

With their experienced Berlin integration partner SXF-Plan, Cobham Wireless took a base station hotel 25 km away from the site and connected it, via fibre cabling, to 27 idDAS digital remote units (idRUs) concealed from view in underground enclosures along the length of the street.

By utilising the innovative idDAS system, the fibre count was drastically reduced, allowing just two fibres to connect the entire system. The system currently comprises of 80 sectors, 40 per operator (20 UMTS and 20 LTE). However it has been designed to support up to 216 sectors, allowing plenty of flexibility for expansion in the future.

As well as the significant cost-savings that idDAS brings, the system is innately flexible, allowing the ability to expand with more capacity and more frequencies as the need arises. With the capacity-shifting capabilities that idDAS brings, there is the potential for other nearby venues to benefit from and share the improved cellular coverage now available in the future too.

“We are proud to lead the way with this new technology and provide our customers with high-bandwidth services no matter how challenging the environment” - Enrico Schadock, Head of Local Planning, Vodafone
providing reliable cellular coverage along the Berlin Fanmile
Dynamic capacity allocation

IdDAS is innately flexible and allows for the dynamic allocation of capacity to areas only when it is needed. Hard-wiring capacity is no longer required, meaning fewer base station resources which brings about significant CAPEX and OPEX savings.

Let’s look at a typical scenario where idDAS could be used to share capacity among several buildings...

In-building coverage is provided using a base station hotel, connected to a DAS.

When the Hotel is Busy
Capacity can be switched to serve its guests

In the Evening
Capacity can be moved to the stadium to cover a concert

During the Day
Maximum capacity can be shifted to the university

During an Event
Capacity can be moved to the conference centre
Enhanced user experience provides a REVOLUTIONARY and COST-EFFECTIVE way of tackling the ever-demanding needs of users for uninterrupted wireless coverage.
About Cobham Wireless

Delivering state-of-the-art wireless and connectivity solutions that give our customers a competitive edge.

At Cobham Wireless, we are global leaders in the provision of advanced wireless coverage and mobile communications systems, producing innovative, cost-effective solutions that address market requirements for improved connectivity, greater capacity and better quality of experience.