

# Delivering reliable communications to UK embassies & consultates

**Few organisations have more exacting communications requirements than the foreign affairs office of national governments. With embassies and consultates situated in almost every corner of the world creating an effective global network infrastructure is extremely challenging.**

In the UK, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is responsible for the UK's embassies and consultates around the world. When challenged to provide secure and reliable voice and data communications to their embassies in far-flung corners of the world, FCO turned to Datasat Communications to meet this global requirement.

## The Challenge

The FCO is the department of the British Government responsible for overseas relations and foreign affairs. It operates through its headquarters in London, and its embassies, high commissions and consultates throughout the world. Its mission is to promote the national interests of the United Kingdom and to contribute to a strong world community.

The FCO's objective was to provide voice and data communications between each of more than 100 British Embassy locations and back to London. The FCO also required a complete re-evaluation and assessment of their previous global network. Reliability and global coverage were key requirements for any proposed solution. Traffic analyses and data profiles had to be developed at each site. The applications deployed by the British embassies include email, Internet, video conferencing, LAN-to-LAN communications and headquarters mainframe access.



## > Key Benefits

- Datasat and Intelsat teamed together to redesign and refine the British Government's global network to meet their high standards.
- High quality voice/data communications are provided globally via pre-engineered IBS (C Band and some Ku Band) services on five satellites.
- The design expertise of Datasat allowed them to improve on FCO's requirements and realise significant cost efficiencies. High speed, secure access to business applications, especially SAP.
- Intelsat's guaranteed reliability allows the British Government to offer a high degree of customer service to their offices around the world, without adding to their present maintenance costs.

**"Datasat's technical professionalism and "can do" attitude is just what we required."**

Derek Blackburn  
Head of Communications Services, FCO

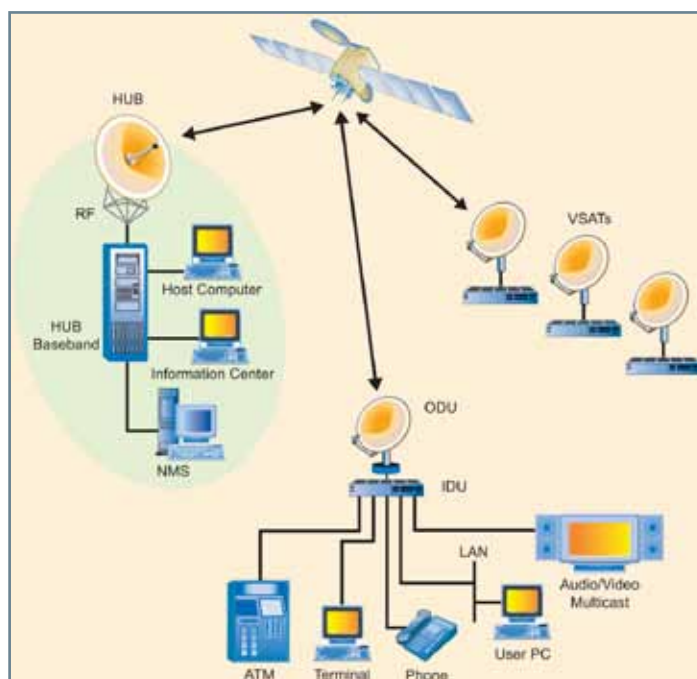
### The Solution

Datasat Communications teamed with Intelsat to ensure the FCO were provided with a high degree of reliability, technical professionalism and global coverage. Ciaran Doran, CEO of the Datasat Group explains the partnership: "We had worked closely with Intelsat for many years and we felt their global coverage and reputation for reliability would be just what the FCO needed. As a matter of fact, many embassies were so happy with the higher quality of the new services that they upgraded their data rates within only a few weeks of first availability."

Intelsat and Datasat worked together to reassess the global voice and data requirements for the FCO. This joint evaluation involved the redesign and refinement of the FCO existing network and required traffic analyses and profiles to be developed at each site. Datasat and Intelsat achieved significant cost savings by eliminating the requirement for remote-to-remote voice connectivity. This function was handled satisfactorily by allowing switching at the Datasat hub site.

### The Network

The network that Datasat and Intelsat implemented provided fast duplex IBS services between the UK and each of more than 100 British Embassy sites. The network used five Intelsat satellites in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Ocean regions. This required the use of five gateway antennas, four of them in the UK. Redundancy was also provided through two hubs. Datasat Communications and Intelsat's design and implementation expertise optimised FCO's network, providing significant cost savings.



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