

The Telkonet iWire System™

Housing Processing Center, Killeen, Texas



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John Fisher,
Bell County Commissioner, Precinct 4

Challenge

To quickly provide secure high-speed Internet access in an abandoned department store for Katrina evacuees.

Telkonet, partnering with Broadband Horizons, was approached by BellNET, a non-profit organization providing technology services in Bell County, Texas, to assist in providing network connectivity and Internet access for a housing processing center in Killeen, Texas, to help 3,000 Katrina evacuees. Named “Operation Thanksgiving,” the housing center was part of a state-wide disaster relief network that was actively communicating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the governor’s office on emergency management and state disaster coordinators, along with volunteers, local government officials, and private industry, to optimize the needs of Katrina evacuees.

To set up the center, a Weiner’s department store in an abandoned shopping center needed to be transformed in order to provide shelter, day-care, a message board, and a processing center with high-speed Internet access to help the Katrina evacuees. The shopping center did not have any telephone lines – the only active system was the electrical infrastructure wiring.

Mike Bates, Executive Vice President of Broadband Horizons, explained, “Telkonet’s iWire System was the perfect solution for quick and simple Internet access deployment. The shopping center did not have any telephone lines – the only active system was the electrical infrastructure – which is all that was needed, since Telkonet’s system uses a building’s existing electrical wiring to deliver Internet access.”

Solution

The FIPS-140-2 Telkonet iWire System was immediately installed, using the store’s existing electrical wiring, delivering fast and secure connectivity.

Within just 12 minutes, the Telkonet iWire System was installed, functional, and ready to go, using the department store’s existing internal electrical wiring to deliver Internet access to every electrical outlet within the center. The Telkonet system met the government’s requirement for a secure method of data transfer, as it is Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2 certified, which is required by the Federal government as a condition of purchase for certain information processing applications.

A mobile lab was set up with laptop computers for Katrina evacuees to use, as well as the Social Security Administration, the American Red Cross, and the Texas Veteran’s Commission, along with various health and county government organizations.

John Fisher, Bell County Commissioner, Precinct 4, commented, “When Broadband Horizons and Telkonet were asked to participate, they immediately rose to the occasion to provide the resources required to implement a cutting-edge technology. This facilitated our ability to process 3,000 evacuees to find housing in our local community, as well to provide a gateway of communication vital to the evacuees’ well-being, enabling them to find lost loved ones, check back to their home communities, or access FEMA to determine their eligibility for any benefits.”



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iW-KCS-11/9/07