

“Moving Forward with Caution”

GPRS = GENERAL PACKET RADIO SERVICE

1-7-2004

Over previous months there has been considerable hype within the electronic security industry in relation to products that use a GSM service called GPRS. (General Packet Radio Services)

GPRS is an IP based protocol that can be transported by the GSM mobile network. The intended use for GPRS was initially for business applications such as mobile office workers, content delivery for general mobile phone users and enabling access to services such as the Internet and email in the field.

Many in the security industry, including ourselves, see this as a possible additional method for the communication of security alarm signals. Since the GPRS Network is being marketed as a permanent IP connection type service, this has led to the possibility of alternatives to the higher priced security products such as Securitel™ and Direct Line™.

The simple fact is that the Security Industry needs permanent connections and polling rates that are superior to existing wired services such as Securitel™ and Direct Line™. Can the current GPRS network satisfy this need?

Our current Network test Data indicates there are issues with stability on GPRS, that should be addressed with service providers, if it going to be marketed as a premium security service.

Whilst we are not against any product in the industry that provides better services, we would like all readers to be aware and act with caution when considering the following points:

- The GPRS network, whilst often marketed as a permanent connection, was intended as a hop-on hop-off service.
- Sec-Eng Systems are not ready to offer a product solution yet. Since December 2003, we have been testing the GPRS service and have collected large amounts of test data in relation to its performance and reliability. Because of these test results, we have NO choice but to continue GPRS testing until we are confident the networks can provide the service levels we require before releasing a product with our name on it.
- The GPRS service is not anywhere near its potential capacity. In fact, it is estimated that the GPRS network is only lightly loaded. It will be at least many months before we see any significant number of users on the network. This may take some time for the effects of loading to appear. So while you may have a number of systems on the GPRS service now, the final results may very well be different in, say, a year's time.
- All GSM carriers are experiencing significant changes in relation to their back-bone platforms such as GPRS and the associated gateways for data traffic.

We will continue to test the GPRS networks until we are satisfied they can perform to the security industry requirements. Only then will we formally release any GPRS solutions. We don't believe the networks will be security industry ready for at least 6 to 12 or even 18 months.

Should you wish to discuss this with me please don't hesitate to call me at your convenience.

Yours

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