



COMMUNICATIONS

Silke Adds Hawaii Communications Company to Holdings, Expands into DAS Technology

December 9, 2014 -- The Silke Communications family has expanded its reach beyond the mainland US to Hawaii, where it has purchased a 30-node, outdoor Distributed Antenna System (o-DAS) serving mobile subscribers in three areas of the islands.

The three-network system – which is held by Hawaii DAS LLC, a Silke company – is roadway based and allows broadband and cellular users to access their networks despite challenging terrain and limited traditional infrastructure that would create interference.

The Silke Communications holdings have been focused on traditional communications towers and rooftop facilities, but this is by no means its first time working with cellular or wireless internet service providers (WISPs). A number of carriers and WISPs lease the Silke facilities to serve communities in California, Oregon and Washington.

"We see the step into DAS as a logical extension of our focus on providing communications services in areas that pose urban infrastructure or natural geographic challenges," explains President Jim Silke, Jr.

"The Hawaii system is one that holds particular promise. Its original design was very good but it has opportunity for expansion and upgrade. That potential for improvement is something we look for in any acquisition."

DAS is an increasingly common way for cell carriers and other content providers to serve customers in hard-to-serve areas. The networks use a number of unobstructive repeaters and amplifiers to extend service via an array of antennas. "Carriers tend to prefer a DAS for the ease of siting, particularly given the challenges of permitting and siting a traditional cell tower," says Silke. "DAS also tend to be more flexible and can better address variations in terrain and user traffic."

DAS solutions are also commonly used for in-building or in-venue situations that limit transmission. For example, an indoor DAS (i-DAS) is often used in conference centers and hotels and hybrid indoor/outdoor locations like football stadiums. "Any time you have a lot of concrete and other barriers combined with a lot of people using their phones, transmission gets tricky without a DAS," explains Silke.

Founded in 1964 to serve Oregon's Willamette Valley, Silke Communications now has communications facilities, offices and shops in Washington, Oregon and California. Its six locations and mobile fleet serve a wide range of industries as well as enterprise users and public safety providers. Silke's proprietary digital network, FleetNet™, supports users in all three states. Silke also provides a full range of equipment provisioning, installation and maintenance. The company is privately held. Learn more at silkecom.com.