siteVIEW Enterprise providing SNMP system monitoring

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) set out to migrate the transit agency's radio system to an IDAS™ 6.25 kHz multi-site conventional voting solution. The project was awarded to Icom America to upgrade the radio communications network systems all across Los Angeles town and under the ground. Icom's Digital Advanced System (IDAS) provides a window into the process of making two-way radio work across a large area like Los Angeles County.

The radio systems in place for LACMTA need to ensure that communications survive, should any type of natural calamity or major disturbance occur. A monitoring system was required for 22 sites Icom IDAS system with 150 units FR-5000 base stations, 800 mobile radios and 1,800 portable radios.

The key requirement was to provide a turn-key solution including system design, factory setup and onsite training in partnership with Icom. TASC Systems' siteVIEW Enterprise monitors the transmitters' TX PLL, Fan State, TX, voltage, current forward and reverse power, as well as to monitor the receivers' COS, RSSI, RX PLL, voltage and current. Another requirement of this project was to provide SNMP system monitoring as part of the base system functionality.

TASC Systems' total monitoring solution provides monitoring and control for this other multi-site radio communications system and numerous equipment for LACMTA. TASC Systems' siteRSM remote terminal units are installed at each site, and a central computer runs siteVIEW Enterprise software. At the client interface, users will be able to view all of the remote terminal units.

A dispatcher or technician logs into siteVIEW Enterprise client interface, to monitor the health of the entire system daily. Data between sites and data transfer from TASC Systems' monitoring equipment is carried over an Ethernet IP network. Scenarios such as checking for low forward power during transmit out of the base station or power amplifier are performed by a TASC Systems' Bi-directional Power Sensor (BPS). In order to check the integrity of the transmit antenna, a TASC Systems' Antenna Line Monitor (ALM) is installed after the combiner. To further deliver on the requirements of this project, TASC Systems' Differential Sensors and Current Shunts are installed between the DC power distribution panel and a base station or power amplifier, to monitor current. Using the accessory connector to ICOM FR-5000, the transmit/receive voltage, transmit/receive PLL, TX, RX, Fan State, IDAS RX and RSSI are all monitored. Power amplifier summary alarms are monitored directly from the equipment. siteVIEW Enterprise acts as a SNMP agent to a network monitoring system. TASC Systems worked with ICOM on the initial setup and configuration in order to achieve factory acceptance testing. Training at LACMTA was provided for TASC Systems' equipment and using the siteVIEW Enterprise software.

No downtime is a critical requirement for such a large system. Anticipating problems and issues before it occurs is equally as important. When an alarm is noticed, the dispatcher will be able to send a technician to the site to investigate depending on the data received. Users can also login remotely, especially if they are monitoring from different offices or locations. The visual analog RF power and current readings are used to monitor variances that occurs.

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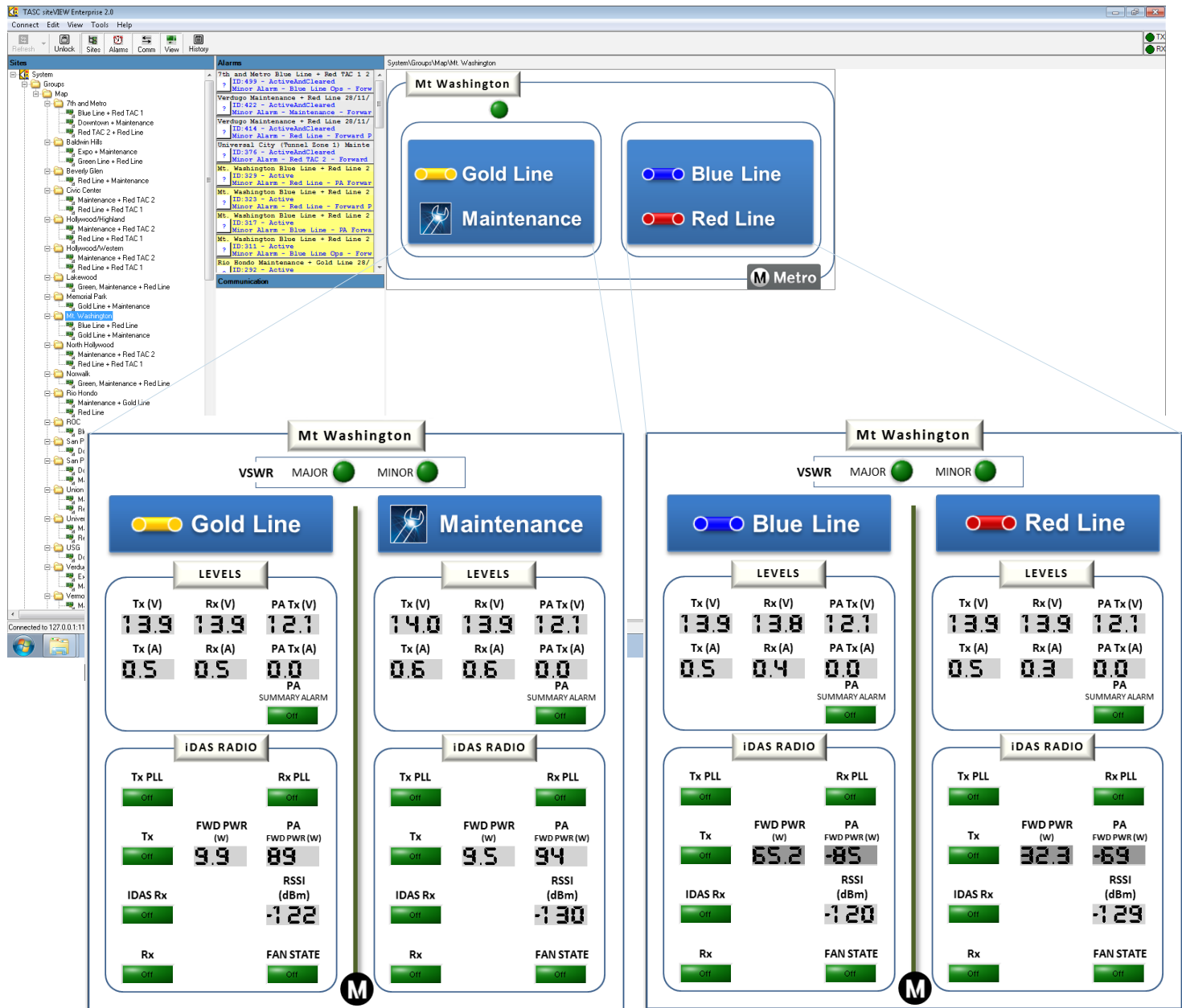
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