

Skyline RF Link Q & A Sheet

What is an RF Link?

A “point to point” or “point to multipoint” network link between two or more buildings using either Radio Frequency (RF) or Millimeter Wave Wireless communication (mmWave) technology, with link speeds from 10Mbps to 2Gbps.

Who needs Point to Point Connectivity?

Any business or organisation that has two or more sites that need to be linked in a local geographical area. Very common for public sector clients, who link schools and libraries together to utilise Local Area Network (LAN) resources and minimise Wide Area Network (WAN) costs.

Why?

- Minimise WAN costs and increase bandwidth to sites at lower cost
- Extend LAN connectivity to remote sites
- Replace existing Lan Extension Services (LES) lines & reduce annual OPEX costs [year 2 is practically free].
- Disaster recovery sites
- CCTV site connection
- Temporary links - No annual costs, contracts to cancel or negotiate cancellation costs
- Flexibility - can be moved if sites move, change or close.
- Agility - very short lead times
- No excess build costs ever
- 99.999% availability
- Add resilience to a site with an existing circuit or RF link

What is included in the Skyline service package?

The Skyline service package includes a desktop survey and path profile assessment, full project management, hardware, maintenance, installation and commissioning. It will present an RJ45 port on the power supply that can be connected to the network switch to provide a transparent layer 2 secure and private LAN extension.

Common FAQ's

Is it Secure?

Yes, all the way to CESG Manual Y&V, FIPS194 and 140.2, AES.

Is it fast and good enough for voice and video?

Yes, typically sub <7ms.

Is it reliable?

Yes, all links are installed to provide a 99.999% SLA, by using best of breed products with highly experienced engineers and RF planners.

How fast and how far?

Ranging from 10Mbps to 2Gbps depending on obstacles and terrain, distances from under 1km to 30km. Any links over 100Mbps are short distance with clear Line of Sight (LOS) typically sub 2000 Mtrs.

How much does it cost to find out if a link will work?

The initial planning is desk based and is FOC.

Is it LOS only (Line of Sight)?

LOS maybe needed for links over 100Meg, 1 or 2 Gig links need clear LOS. Normally radio links are individually planned with path obstructions taken into account to determine what speed can be achieved at 99.999% SLA. Our planning tools provide very accurate information allowing us to predict link feasibility.

Any planning permission?

No. The antennas used are very small, so generally only the landlord's permission is required. [Listed buildings may require additional consent]

What happens if the link fails?

Under the maintenance agreement it is either fixed or replaced by a trained engineer, standard terms are NBD.

What is the lead time to install?

Usually within 10 working days from date of order.

Is it safe?

Yes, all our products meet European requirements for radio emissions. Unlike Wi-Fi radios or mobile phones, they use very narrow directional antenna that are aimed at the other end of a link and are normally on a roof. Many local authorities use them to link schools, so it is a very common question.