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Keeping the communications open in paradise

Rotuma with a population of about 2,500, is a volcanic island of approximately 43 sq. km (17 sq. miles), located 465 km (290 miles) north of Fiji, in the South Pacific. Earlier this year Powerware was contracted by Telecom Fiji Ltd to install Intergy CellSure to provide battery monitoring and visibility of battery status for their satellite earth station located on Rotuma. The site has six satellite DAMA network links with 200 phone lines and is a solar hybrid (solar panels and a diesel generator) with no AC power on the island other than generators.

Telecom Fiji Ltd is one of Fiji's major corporations. The company was established in 1998 and operates 80,000 lines to customers throughout the islands.

Powerware has worked with Telecom Fiji for a number of years supplying both Swichtec Series 3 and Intergy DC Power Systems.

The recently installed Intergy CellSure Battery Management System will enable Telecom Fiji to determine battery faults remotely and to implement pro-active service or battery replacement as required. This remote monitoring function is ideal in this particular situation. CellSure greatly reduces the need for site visits and, with only one plane flight in and out of the island each week, staff downtime.

The remoteness of the island did create additional issues to be overcome. With limited accessibility a decision was made that only the monitoring functions of Intergy CellSure would be used rather than the more advanced features such as Reserve Time prediction. This meant that less equipment was required to complete the installation.

Following the success of this installation Telecom Fiji is now considering the installation of a further four Intergy CellSure systems on the islands.



The Telecom Fiji satellite earth station on Rotuma Island.



Intergy CellSure modules installed on one of the strings of batteries at the Rotuma satellite earth station.