

OgierElectronics

Point-to-Point v Point-to-Multipoint

Point-to-Point systems are the norm for most professional CCTV systems. The major benefit is that it allows frequencies to be reused on the links to different cameras because the antennas provide discrimination between the signals. It therefore has a higher capacity than a Point to Multipoint system that has to employ a different frequency channel for each camera within the beam at the Control Centre. Typically, all other things being equal, the capacity of a Point-to-Point system is three to five times greater than a Point to Multipoint.

The second benefit of a Point-to-Point system is that the equipment need only be purchased when it is required, whereas in a Point to Multipoint, a relatively complex Base Station is necessary at the Control Centre, even if there are just a few cameras in the network. Thus depending on the features, it could be a more expensive option for a few cameras, but considerably cheaper if there are many. In this case however it is important to recognise that the available bandwidth will have to be shared between all the cameras and inevitably compromises will have to be made on data rates, which will impact on the picture quality.

In practice Point to Multipoint systems are only used in IP based systems. Many companies supply such equipment in the licence exempt bands, whereas we supply equipment in the 10.5 GHz licenced band.

An important exception to the above is our Multichannel link in a collecting point configuration. Here, single channel links transmit from the cameras to the collecting point, and a Multichannel link transmits from the collecting point to the Control Centre. In this case, when an additional camera is required, a new single channel link has to be fitted, but additional modules only are required in the Multichannel link to carry the video back to the Control Centre.

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