

# Gigabit-Speed Millimeter Wave Helps Make the Queen's Jubilee Pageant a Success

Pylon One, Siklu and WifiGear Team Up to Provide  
Comprehensive Communications Support Network

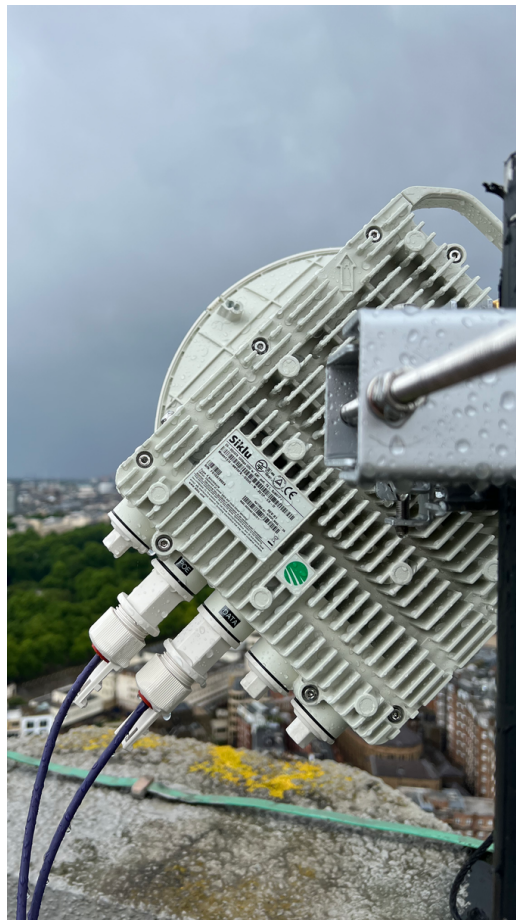






## Demand for Connectivity at the Jubilee Pageant

Since its inception in 2001, [Pylon One](#) has evolved from being primarily a video company to an organisation at the forefront of delivering innovative, robust communications services to major events and conferences across the globe. They are globally renowned as an industry leader in the design and provisioning of enterprise-grade communications infrastructures for the events industry. The demand for robust and effective wireless networks is increasing at an exponential rate and nowhere was this more evident than during the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, which commemorated the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II and provided an opportunity for hundreds of thousands of the British public and tourists from around the world to celebrate the historic milestone.



Pylon One was awarded this prestigious assignment by Arcadis – a design and consultancy organization that holds the contract with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport to deliver major Royal and State ceremonial events – and by the Platinum Jubilee Pageant committee, the official organising company for all Pageant events. And Siklu was honoured to be chosen to provide the required connectivity for the CCTV and Wi-Fi infrastructure for the celebrations, which took place across large parts of central London. Siklu radios were used to backhaul hundreds of communications links for the cameras and Wi-Fi access points and the project was managed and executed by Pylon One, Siklu and [WifiGear](#), who were the distributor working with and supporting the Pylon One team throughout the project.





# The EtherHaul™ Solution

At the core of the temporary network was a large fibre optic network, such as the rings around the perimeters of St. James's Park and Green Park, complemented by extensive Point-to-Point wireless coverage provided by Siklu. This network proved critical to the successful operation of essential services, which included the Emergency Control Room, the media center, hundreds of CCTV cameras used to monitor entry and exit points to the pageant, and all concessions areas, particularly those selling alcoholic beverages.

The Pylon One team utilised the rooftops of five buildings – including Portland House, Admiralty Arch, and Park Lane Hilton – in key locations to build the Siklu millimeter wave network. The traffic carried during the festivities was for the most part high-capacity CCTV video and other critical traffic, such as backhauling of walkie-talkie communications from multiple rooftop sites, the communications system used by the event production teams, and general internet services provided by the Wi-Fi access points.



The network covered an area of approximately 4 square kilometers and incorporated two pairs of [EtherHaul™ 8010 FX](#) to create two 2-Gbps primary links, 1 pair of [EtherHaul 1200TX](#) radios, used for backhaul connections within the network perimeter, and 5 pairs of Siklu's [MultiHaul™ TG-T280](#) radios, configured in point-to-point mode to achieve an even longer range – up to 850m in this case. Other path lengths ranged from 300m to approximately 2 km. With the exception of the 1200TX, all links were scoped to be able to carry at least 1 Gbps of traffic and more if necessary, using the radios' inherent “bandwidth on demand” capability. Pylon One needed not only Siklu's customary “five 9s” of high reliability, but flexible high capacity as the bandwidth requirements of the event were ever-changing and growing. Pylon One reports that the Siklu radios adapted quickly and flawlessly during the days-long event.





All of the links were quickly up and running quickly once mounted – even for some of the Pylon One engineers who were using Siklu for the first time. Of particular note was the performance of the Siklu radios on the rooftop of the Hilton Park Lane hotel, which is very crowded with many other antennas used by various service providers. Some of these other antennas were also using the V- and E-bands and the Pylon One team was able to align and connect the Siklu radios in a way to that achieved exceptional performance.

*“We were very pleased with the results of this project and the feedback we received from the Pageant committee and Arcadis,” said John Houchin, Director, Pylon One. “And the close collaboration with Siklu and WifiGear, which began early on in the planning phase, helped make it a reality. Their technical support and network planning included guiding us with the product selection to ensure what we were planning would come to fruition and achieve our goals for highly-reliable, high-speed connectivity.”*

