

Superior Propane

Summary

- Required network connectivity/ internet access at remote locations
- Small remote offices required multiple Ethernet connections for computers and handheld devices
- Dozens of small remote locations
- Require secure Site-to-Site VPN access to corporate network



VIP4G Highlights

- Ultra Fast 4G/LTE/HSPA+
- RS232/485 Serial Port
- 4x Gigabit Ethernet
- 4x Digital I/O
- 802.11a/b/g/n WiFi
- NMS Compatible
- Integrated/Standalone GPS
- SMS Alerts
- Data Usage Alerts
- Carrier & Network watchdogs/ Keepalives to prevent lockups
- Industrial Temp (-40°C to 85°C)
- Passive PoE (on WAN port)

Portable Fuels - Services

Superior Propane is a national provider of portable fuels and equipment, delivering propane locally to a diverse variety of customers all across Canada.

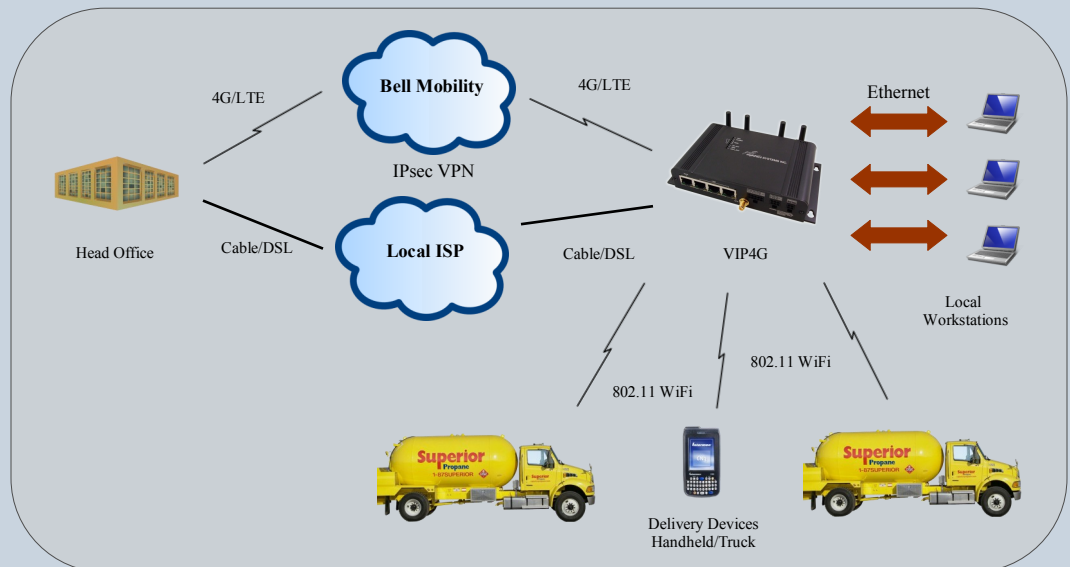
The Issue

Superior Propane has many small remote field offices across Canada that require a VPN capable cellular solution to provide dependable high speed network access back to the corporate network either as a backup for situations where local ISP experiences outages, or as the primary access in areas where there is no local ISP. Each office distributes and delivers propane and other portable fuels to residential, industrial, commercial and agricultural customers. In addition to several locally attached workstations, field staff also require network access for docking stations for handheld devices used during deliveries.

The Solution

Microhard Systems Inc. specializes in developing and manufacturing rugged wireless solutions that excel in demanding conditions. The VIP4G Cellular 4G/LTE Ethernet/ Serial Gateway w/WiFi was a perfect candidate for the challenges faced by Superior Propane.

Equipped with 4 Gigabit Ethernet ports the VIP4G was able to meet the requirement of connecting multiple local workstations, without the use of additional Ethernet switches, making the deployment and installation fast and simple. The integrated MultiWan support made switching between the local ISP and the cellular network seamless, sensing when the preferred connection was no longer available the VIP4G will switch to the alternate WAN option, in this case the 4G/LTE network.



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The VPN capabilities made establishing a tunnel to the corporate network simple. Using Gateway-to-Gateway IPsec tunneling, a secure and reliable connection is always maintained for critical information and network access.

The optional WiFi was a value added bonus that allowed the Intermec handheld devices to remotely connect to the VIP4G using 802.11 WiFi as soon as they were in range and automatically update the information stored on them to the Superior Propane network. The ability to wirelessly send data using the VIP4Gs' integrated WiFi rather than relying on having to physically dock the handhelds to upload data was a great convenience to the drivers.

Results

Microhard Systems was able to provide a rugged, reliable, innovative solution that met or exceeded all requirements of the project. Responsive technical support and engineering assistance allowed Superior Propane to quickly and easily integrate the VIP4G to provide fast, secure and reliable network access to their remote offices.

Superior Propane has successfully deployed the VIP4G at over a dozen remote offices across Canada with plans to expand to meet the growing demand.