Grid Modernization for Improved Safety and Service

United States | *Deployed on AT&T FirstNet Cellular Network*

SCENARIO

An investor-owned utility (IOU) needed to make communication upgrades for critical infrastructure devices across multiple states, including the reclosers that help clear obstructions like tree growth on power lines.

These upgrades would be complex to install, and the utility would need to minimize operational downtime throughout. For these reasons, the IOU explored a retrofit approach to grid modernization, with an emphasis on scalability.

SOLUTION

An IoT solution over an AT&T FirstNet cellular network transformed a communication upgrade into total grid modernization. The turnkey solution included design, customized hardware, enclosures, and software, plus maintenance and full project management for the life of project.

RESULTS

The IOU is now able to detect faults in near real time, improving power restoration after outages.

But this was just one of the solution's many benefits. With advanced circuit protection to protect and manage devices across its critical infrastructure, the IOU now had increased visibility and control across its grid.

Operations became more efficient and cost-effective, too. Remote control over the network helped the utility optimize resources, such as using more reclosers and fewer truck rolls to address tree growth.

Throughout, improved communications and control across a multi-state service area enhanced the utility's mission of customer service and public safety.