

TWO WAY RADIOS, POC RADIOS OR SMARTPHONES: WHICH IS BEST FOR MY BUSINESS?



"Communication is key" may have been written for individuals seeking success, however, the same is true for businesses.

Considering the vast categories of available choices of communications systems, deciding what to adopt for your business could be challenging. Two way radios, PoC radios and smartphones exist as today's most popular choices. Find their key differences below.

This comparison sheet is merely a tool to help you compare and easily find the differences that help you make a selection. As a one-stop-shop for all your communications needs, Expert Mobile Communications can help with any or all of your communications needs, including: smartphones, PoC radios and Two way radios.

POTENTIAL CAPABILITIES

TWR



PoC



Phone



Instant Communications



Coverage and Range

Limited

Unlimited

Unlimited

Cost

Expensive

Cost Efficient

Expensive

Licenses & Permissions

Required

Not Required

Not Required

Rugged Design



Easy Deployment



Monthly Contract

Not Required

Required

Required

Battery Life

Long Life

Longest Life

Longer Life

Unified Management Platform



Rich Safety Features



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WHAT IS A:

Two Way Radio



A two way radio device (generically called, "walkie-talkie"), in contrast, is a hand-held or vehicle mounted transceiver. This gadget has had a long and illustrious legacy since the Second World War. The half-duplex (HDX) technology allows two way radios to communicate in both directions. Nonetheless, the device can only transmit in one route at a time and uses a distinct radio network.

PoC Radio



Push-to-Talk Over Cellular (PoC) is a dispatching digital cellular system and two-way radio system that uses cell phone connections and the Internet (5G, 4G LTE, 3G, GSM). It can either be a portable (handheld) or a mobile (vehicle) mounted two-way radio that provides fast, clear, and secure communications.

Smartphone



Smartphones needs no introduction, as they are the most widely used amongst the three options we're considering. The question is whether they offer the best use in business operations.

Learn more about: the differences between traditional two way radios and Push-to-talk over Cellular (PoC) radios.

Instant Communications

Also known as "Push-to-Talk." This refers to devices designed to allow instant communications at the push of a button. Employees working in field services need a communication platform that is simple and fast.

Cost

Two way radios are typically a hefty investment due to programming, features, FCC licensing, and encryption. A PoC overall is a cheaper investment for businesses that don't have enough resources to buy a two-way radio for their entire team.

Monthly Contract

The monthly contract for PoC radios includes the cost of the cellular service, which allows for the transmission of voice and data over a cellular network. This cost can vary depending on the cellular service provider and the specific plan chosen. With traditional radios, once you purchase the radios, there are no recurring costs as long as you are operating within the legal frequencies.

Battery Life

While battery life for both traditional two-way radios and PoC radios can vary depending on the model, usage and environment, PoC radios are typically four times more efficient. Under normal operations, we find our PoC radios last up to two days before recharge, while traditional radios last about a day.

Unified Management Platform

A dedicated management system that allow configuring and management of radios remotely, such as: location tracking, real-time monitoring of radio usage, as well as the ability to remotely configure and update radios. Administrators can easily monitor and troubleshoot issues with PoC radios in real-time. However, this functionality is greatly limited with traditional two way radios, as they could be very costly to adopt on those devices.

Coverage and Range

Two Way Radios are primarily used for short-ranged communications. The device's range is generally between ten and twenty miles. In contrast, long-ranged wireless communication can be integrated into PoC radios.

Licenses & Permissions

Traditional two-way radios require businesses to buy licenses and permissions based on their areas of operation. With PoC radios, however, the setup is easy and companies do not need to purchase licenses. Permissions can be granted easily through the app.

Easy Deployment

PoC (Push-to-Talk over Cellular) radios use cellular networks to transmit and receive communications, whereas traditional two-way radios use dedicated radio frequency bands. Because cellular networks are more widely available and have better coverage than dedicated radio frequency bands, PoC radios can be used in more places and don't require the same level of setup and infrastructure as traditional two-way radios.

Rich Safety Features

Safety is always a team's number one priority. Traditional two-way radios are often equipped with a wide range of safety features such as emergency buttons, man down alarms, and lone worker alerts. These safety features can be critical in certain industries such as construction, mining, and oil and gas, where workers are often operating in hazardous environments and need a reliable way to call for help in case of an emergency. PoC radios also have similar features, but smartphones lack the ability to apply this functionality at scale.

Rugged Design

Most modern-day two way radios are built to withstand harsh outdoor environments, extreme temperatures and vibrations, considering the high-risk nature of the industries they are normally used in. Smartphones do not compare.

Smartphones are a secure option for business communications, but two-way radios and PTT over Cellular offer increased reliability, safety, and efficiency leading to higher productivity. Industries trust digital two-way radios for seamless communication. Enhance your business communication with the benefits of two-way radios. Contact Expert Mobile Communications to find the best solution for your business.