

Telecommunications

Dismantling dish antennas in the Puy de Dôme

Rencontres visited a site near Clermont-Ferrand (France) to watch a team from Export Telecom Service (ETS) hard at work on a mobile phone transmission network.

➤ Snow is falling and an icy December wind is blowing over the heights of the site in Job, where the site manager, Philippe Sicard, the technical manager, Jacques Charbonnières and two fitters, Daniel Bassi and Farid Boudjellal, have been dismantling two large dish antennas. "We obtained this contract from Alcatel, for its end customer, LDcom" explains Bruno Lacaste, department manager. "Thanks to our good working relationship with Alcatel and our expertise in transmission systems, we are regularly contacted for this type of project." The purpose of this particular project was to optimise LDcom's network by re-routing certain terrestrial trunk links. "This entails

dismantling and identifying the active devices, then packing them so that they can be moved to a new location" adds Bruno Lacaste. "This equipment is then reconfigured in our test platform in Toulouse in southwest France, allowing it to be reinstalled and commissioned at one of the customer's other sites." This type of work is best conducted by a team of hardened professionals. The sites remain in service during the work, and there is a significant risk of disrupting traffic while handling the dish antennas (which measure 4 m in diameter) or by disabling active devices. With this kind of operation, bad weather does not make things any easier. ■



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- 1 • Left to right: Farid Boudjellal, Jacques Charbonnières, Philippe Sicard and Daniel Bassi in front of a 60-m tall terrestrial tower.
- 2 • Installing the supply cables and connecting the electric winches.
- 3 • Installing the lifting system on the first platform (20 m above ground) that will be used to detach the dish from its mast.



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- 4 • Inspecting the lifting gear fasteners and fittings and unbolting the dish.
- 5 • Swinging the dish/mast assembly to the side to allow it to be lowered.
- 6 • Philippe Sicard (left) and Daniel Bassi in good spirits despite the harsh weather.

ETS in brief

Export Telecom Service was created in 1988 and bought by Spie Trindel in 2001. The company specialises in corporate and transmission telecom networks, and employs 180 people. Its business covers four fields of expertise:

- Turnkey projects (32.5%)
- Technical support (32.2%)
- Maintenance (21.7%)
- Engineering (13.6%)

ETS holds ISO 9002 and ISO 9001:2000 certificates. The company, which is based near Toulouse, is gradually being integrated into the Midi-Pyrénées regional office's Telecom Services department.