The cost in time and money associated with sharing highly-classified data between sites is significant (especially when transcontinental locations are considered). This can have severe time and cost impacts upon programmes.

To overcome this difficulty, MASS has designed, developed and deployed a secure, multi-community, shared working environment for with complete isolation and data integrity maintained between the two Contractor locations. The system is isolated from all other systems and has no connectivity to intranets or the Internet. The customer provides the long distance communications backbone and the high grade cryptographic equipment.

The network is organised as three separate Domains (see diagram).
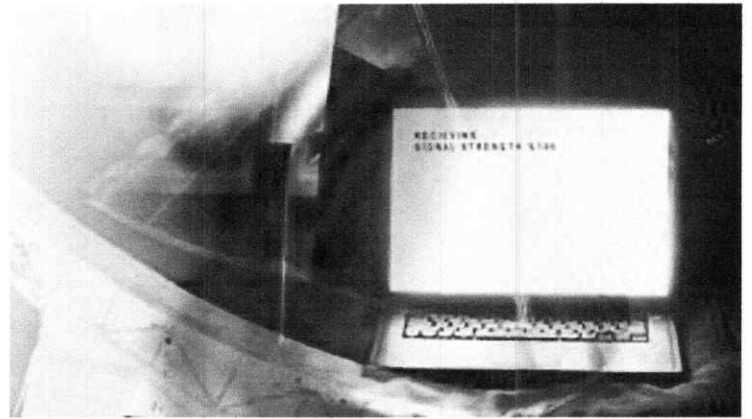
Transcontinental data and video conferencing communications system developed

the UK MoD and its suppliers. The system has a unique feature in that the sharing of information is deliberately stove-piped within defined user-communities, enabling the headquarters to define which users have access to which data repositories and lines of video communication. This enables an Integrated Project Team (IPT) to manage the secure sharing of data with different Contractors and MoD establishments without cross-fertilisation of data.

Communication outside of a Domain is not possible. The Contractor users can communicate only within the user's Domain, whilst members of the HQ Domain - which includes the remote site - can separately log-on to the other Domains enabling HQ users to communicate with all other locations. Communication consists of e-mail, proprietary database access, MS Office document exchange and secure video conferencing.

Data security is maintained by using

Secure remote data sharing without cross-fertilization now available.

Secure Comms Network Schematic

Benefits
- Rapid dissemination of secure data - efficient programme execution
- Reduction in cost of data transfer
- Low cost of ownership

SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The example system depicted provides a secure data communications and video conferencing capability between a headquarters facility, a remote HQ site and two separate Contractor locations. Key attributes of the system include working at a security level equivalent to "UK SECRET"

high-grade cryptographic equipment and firewall routing, whilst nefarious access is restricted by a stringent lockdown of key system elements. Finally, a centralised capability is provided from the HQ Domain providing appropriate administrative functions throughout all Domains, with the exception of loading backup tapes at the remote sites.