

# Thruxton Motorsport Centre drives safely through Vertex Standard radio

## CASE STUDY



### CUSTOMER PROFILE

<b>Company</b>	Thruxton Motorsport Centre (TMC) Hampshire, UK
<b>Industry</b>	Motorsport
<b>Vertex Standard Products</b>	VX-821 handheld two-way radio
<b>Benefits</b>	<p><b>Unobtrusive:</b> small, lightweight, easily carried and worn.</p> <p><b>Easy to use:</b> Simple operation and usability.</p> <p><b>Rugged:</b> IP57 water resistant - submersible up to 3 meters for 30 minutes.</p> <p><b>Reliable:</b> robust signal and 12.5-hour battery life.</p> <p><b>Big Audio:</b> 700mW audio output enables calls to be heard loud and clear in the noisiest environments.</p> <p><b>Tone Lock:</b> ensures no interference from neighbouring airfield or other nearby radio users.</p> <p><b>Durability:</b> • IP57 (VX-820) • MIL 810 C,D,E,F • ATEX Certified</p> <p><b>Usability:</b> • 16 / 512 Channels • 700 mW Audio Output • Compander • Audio Pitch Control • Whisper • Minimum Volume Control • 20+ hours battery life • 7-Color LED • Flexible Scan Options</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> • Emergency • Lone Worker • Remote Listen • ARTS</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> • 134 – 174 MHz • 400 – 470 MHz</p>

### Thruxton Motorsport Centre

TMC is a driving experience company, offering the public the opportunity to drive karts, 4x4 vehicles, race and super cars. The firm owns the Karting tracks (900m, 1,100, and club, or junior, circuits) and runs driving events on Thruxton's race circuit, which is also home to British Touring Car Championships and Superbike events. TMC also offers a range of extras, including on-board filming, DVDs, pictures, gifts etc.

### Overview: Enabling a culture of safety in a challenging environment

TMC covers an area of around 500 acres. Driving experience days take place on Thruxton's main race circuit around 60 times a year, hosting up to 200 members of the public at one time. The Kart circuits can host up to 150 adults and children every day. Ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all of these guests is the number one priority for all TMC staff, and to do this they require instant, easy-to-use and reliable communications – wherever they are on the site. Conditions are demanding, with trackside staff often exposed to harsh weather conditions for long periods of time. TMC had been using radio hardware that was big and bulky, unreliable and prone to breakages. As a result, it decided to invest in a single system radio solution for deployment across the whole site.

### Solution: Vertex Standard VX-821 takes pole position

TMC had some prior experience with Vertex Standard two-way radios, and elected to adopt a standardized solution for all staff. Staff at both the race and the kart tracks were supplied with VX-821 handheld radios, as well as three mains-powered base stations, located in buildings across the site.

### Small yet rugged, unobtrusive yet ubiquitous

The smallest two-way radio in the Vertex Standard portfolio, the VX-821 easily clips onto a user's belt or can be stowed in their pocket for immediate access. This is essential for trackside and pit lane operatives who must always be within reach of the radio, but also need their hands free to attend to the public, e.g. strapping them into vehicles.

The rugged construction means that radios are able to cope with the harsh trackside conditions, and are waterproof to a depth of 1 meter for up to 30 minutes. As TMC Operations Manager Pat Blakeney explains, this is essential for trackside use: "We are at the mercy of the British weather here at Thruxton, and are outside for most of the day – whether it is howling wind or driving rain. The Vertex Standard radios are designed to withstand this kind of environment, and they haven't let us down yet."

*“At Thruxton Motorsport Centre, we run Driving Experience and Karting days on a site that covers an area of around 500 acres. The safety of the public and our staff is of paramount importance, and we depend on reliable, instant, easy to use communications – wherever we are on the site. But with our staff out on the track in all weather, come rain or shine, we needed technology that was rugged and could withstand the toughest environments. The Vertex Standard solution has more than answered our needs; the VX-821 radios are rugged, yet lightweight and small enough to keep on us at all times. Multiple channels mean we can talk within pre-defined groups, so there is no confusion, and we are confident that a potentially dangerous environment will always be safe. We couldn’t do our jobs properly without it.”*

— Pat Blakeney, Operations Manager, Thruxton Motorsport Centre

#### **Reliable and easy to use radios underpin safety goals**

Staff across the whole of the TMC site – from office-based and customer-facing personnel to race marshals and pit lane crews – can communicate instantly and at the touch of a button. Three fixed based stations across the site mean that users are in range wherever they may be, while the 12.5 hour battery life means that there is no risk of losing power whilst in a remote location. And, at 700 mW of audio output, the radios are louder than many comparable radios available, meaning critical information is never lost in the noise of the engines.

“A race circuit is a potentially dangerous environment. The vehicles are often moving very fast around the track and there are a lot of members of the public milling around. With easy-to-use, instant communications, we can make sure we have a clear view of activities across the whole site and are in control at all times,” says Blakeney.

#### **Multiple channels deliver targeted communications**

TMC uses five different channels on the radio to ensure that only relevant messages are relayed to employees in different areas of the site, eliminating confusion or miscommunication. This also ensures efficient use of radio spectrum between the main circuit, the Kart circuit, administration staff, operations team and the neighbouring airfield.

“The channel capability means I can speak to different teams as required. Also, having direct communications with the airfield means that we can be kept up to date with any potential safety issues arising from their operations. A tone lock on several of the channels also ensures there is no bleed or interference from other radio systems – we do not accidentally pick up on radio messages from the airfield or other nearby radio users,” explains Blakeney.

#### **Versatile accessories support multiple functions**

TMC employees requiring constant radio communications whilst keeping their hands free, for example race marshals, use Remote Speaker Microphones, clipped to their lapels.

Race marshal, Daryl Chappel underlines the importance of the radios: “My job is to keep the drivers safe by communicating with them using a series of flags and boards. For example, I might have to tell them to slow down or to return to the pit lane – so my hands have to be free at all times. I couldn’t do my job effectively without the radio and the Remote Speaker Microphone, it is nothing less than essential.”

#### **About Vertex Standard**

Since 1956, Vertex Standard has maintained a focused commitment to delivering quality radio communications equipment that supports business productivity and public safety worldwide. We are proud to have never lost sight of this commitment and are relentless to do what it takes to continuously support your business and achieve total customer satisfaction. Vertex Standard is more than a two-way radio manufacturer. Think of us as a true partner working to do everything possible to make you more productive and successful at what you do every day.

