

MinkPolice New Zealand launches new tool for Predator Free 2050 at Fieldays 2019.



AUTOMATED PEST TRAPPING with NB-IoT

Partner: MinkPolice

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AUTOMATED PEST TRAPPING

'The big three' predators - rats, stoats and possums - are responsible for killing approximately 25 million native birds each year. Stoats in particular cause 60% of kiwi chick deaths. But the Vodafone NB-IoT network and MinkPolice IoT connected pest control system is helping New Zealand achieve its aim of being predator free by 2050. Industry is using the long-established tool in its shape as 2G model since many years. Now redeveloped with NB-IoT, Cat-M and 2G we reach out for the connectivity.

Award Winning MinkPolice supported the full eradication of Mink at the Isles of Scotland in 2001-2006.

References: <http://www.designed2kill.info/news/minkpolice/>

Previously checking traps was laborious and time-consuming, often taking volunteers up to 4 weeks.

Now each trap uses a SIM that connects via Vodafone's IoT network to MinkPolice's smart-phone app so they can receive a notification to their smartphone. This tells them the precise location of an activated trap so it may be cleared and reset and summarises all traps in a single dashboard to provide volunteers and industry with a complete overview.

As Vodafone New Zealand has announced the launch of its latest Internet of Things (IoT) network technologies, Narrowband-IoT (NB-IoT) and Long Term Evolution for Machines (LTE-M). Both technologies are known as Low Power Wide Area Network (LPWAN), aptly named for their ability to deliver long battery life and extended land coverage. It is expected LPWAN technologies will drive the next wave of IoT innovations, particularly for battery-powered devices.

Vodafone IoT Country Manager, Scott Pollard, says Vodafone is the only nationwide provider offering both technologies and customers are taking notice.

“The LPWAN offers massive potential across so many industries and customers are taking advantage of the superior features to create IoT solutions, including pest control and school safety-sign monitoring.”

In stunning Punakaiki, home of the Pancake Rocks on New Zealand’s West Coast, local volunteer group, Predator Free Punakaiki is working to create a native bird sanctuary. In their quest to eradicate predators, they have turned to an innovative IoT pest control solution, MinkPolice, which already has a track record of success in Europe.

Heiko Kaiser, Managing Director of MinkPolice explains, “Within each trap there is a SIM that connects via Vodafone’s IoT network to the MinkPolice smart-phone application. Volunteers receive a notification whenever a trap is activated which sends them to the exact location of that trap, to clear it, reset it, and trap more pests more often. Initially, the traps used Vodafone’s 2G network, but we’re about to move to the NB-IoT network, which will enable the volunteers to set traps in more remote areas of the sanctuary knowing they’ll still have reliable connectivity.”

Grant Parrett of Predator Free Punakaiki adds, “The benefits for our volunteers have been fantastic. Rather than the volunteers committing to walking through arduous terrain to check on traps hoping to find one that’s been triggered - a process that takes up to 4 weeks to cover the trap lines - they can target traps they know have been activated. Ultimately, we will be using Vodafone’s NB-IoT technology to help save native species, support our hard-working volunteers and work towards achieving a Predator Free Punakaiki and beyond that, a Predator Free New Zealand by 2050.”

Adds Pollard, “MinkPolice is a great example of leveraging global innovation into New Zealand using our network. The solution already exists in Europe and now our NB-IoT network can put that technology to use to help solve a problem we have here in New Zealand.”

MinkPolice has been rated as one of most stable and “state of Art” tools available. Customers like Whittaker, SkyLine, Sanctuaries and even home owners are impressed by the simplicity and plug & play system.

With a partner like Vodafone, rated as a global leader in IoT, and with 75 million IoT connections in over 30 countries, we’ll continue to see IoT adoption grow around the world.”

Let’s use what is available for PF2050!

- ENDS-

Notes to Editor:

- Low Power Wide Area Network (LPWAN) is a category of wireless communication technologies designed to support Internet of Things (IoT) deployments
- MinkPolice is latest technology in monitoring and trapping of pests for anybody including domestic and commercial clients.
- A number of different technologies have been developed to fulfil LPWAN requirements, and Vodafone are rolling out NB-IoT and LTE-M (CAT-M) because they both run across licensed spectrum, providing less interference
- To date Vodafone New Zealand has deployed its NB-IoT coverage across the 4G mobile network with 97.5% population coverage and 48.2% land area coverage at launch.
- The LTE-M network roll-out is underway and has 60.1% population coverage at launch. This will increase to 96.6% population coverage and 40.8% land area coverage as additional sites are rolled out.

About MinkPolice & D2K NZ:

We are an international leading company that is based in Rotorua, developing and manufacturing for a global market. The focus is to supply 100% functional and non-toxic solutions for the trapping and pest control markets.

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About Vodafone NZ:

Vodafone is a leading full service telecommunications company, with mobile and fixed networks helping customers across the country connect for a better future. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.vodafone.co.nz>.

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Images: On request



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