The Department of State operates more than 300 embassies, consulates and other locations globally that project US presence around the world. Each location represents US sovereignty in another country with multiple objectives including: promote mutual understanding of culture and government, assist US citizens traveling abroad, address common concerns between the two countries, and help fight terrorism. While some embassies are in relatively peaceful and safe locations like UK or Germany, others are in volatile locations that have a local population and government with anti-American sentiment. Each embassy has a critical need to be connected to domestic US networks in a secure and continuous manner and house sensitive data in order to effectively support the State Department’s mission.

Smaller state department facilities, while having limited budget to maintain their IT and communications infrastructure, still must perform all of the same functions as larger facilities. The latter have more budget and physical space to maintain their infrastructure. In host countries with less mature communications technology, the ability to maintain operational functionality when disconnected from domestic networks is of paramount importance and presents a challenge. Each state department location requires the ability to run or consume a number of enterprise application in order to fulfill their daily mission. The reliance on permanent physical IT infrastructure and the need for power, climate control, and communications access can prove challenging. This is especially the case when daily operations are disrupted and continuity of operations is required.

Utilizing Acuity, an embassy would be provided with a robust modular small form factor approach to their communication and data center needs. Acuity is a fully contained micro data center that could operate as a standalone embassy data center or extend domestic infrastructure to the embassy. This would provide small embassies with a tremendous cost savings approach to their infrastructure by cutting down on wiring and construction expenditures for a data center room. In addition, Acuity would provide the embassy with the ability to move their data center infrastructure at a moment’s notice if the need arises to move buildings or offices in a shared embassy environment. Mobility could be especially important in cases where the embassy needs to be evacuated and sensitive data cannot be left behind. As Acuity is only 30 pounds, it can be easily grabbed by a single individual and all sensitive data can be safeguarded during evacuation. With Acuity’s built in functionality of auto-load balancing and auto failover of network connections, Acuity could maximize the countries network infrastructure to maintain connection to domestic US networks. If one copper or fiber line goes down, Acuity could automatically start utilizing SATCOM or cellular network to maintain outside connectivity. This would ensure critical mission systems and communication stay online and operational in third-world country Disconnected, Intermittent, Limited bandwidth (DIL) environments.

**Use Case:**

State Department

**BACKGROUND**

**PROBLEM**

**SOLUTION**

- Cost reduction in infrastructure build out
- Ability to maintain outside connectivity in countries without reliable internet service
- Module package that provides the flexibility in placement and relocation
- Ability to quickly evacuate data center at a moment’s notice in the event of a terrorist attack

Acuity: Helping the Department of State focus on building cultural communication and not technology!