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In India

In Sri Lanka

Electroteks Network Services of Sri Lanka, incorporated in 1983, introduced ATMs in Sri Lanka in 1988, ahead of many South Asian countries, and established the first earth station in 1991 with its International Network Services business. In keeping with the goal of supplying customers with the latest communications capabilities, Electroteks is building hub stations to provide international telephone facilities, Internet access, data broadcasting to Asia from Europe and North America, and a broadcast VSAT network for this island nation near the equator.



Located in the southwest of the country close to Bombay, the 500-acre software development park in Pune was inaugurated in 1999. It is situated near Hinjaedi on the Pune-Mumbai bypass and is home to IT firms, such as Wipro and Infosys.

On recommendation of Tech Consult in Germany, the company ordered two Andrew 9.3-meter earth station antennas for installation in Ratmalana "as a worldwide

link to provide the Sri Lankan people with cheaper telephone service than the local PTT," said B.A.C. Abeywardana, CEO of Electroteks. The company routes all Internet data from telephone lines and beams it up to the Intelsat satellite for transmission to anywhere in the world. Terrestrial microwave antennas and optical fiber form the links between homes and businesses and the earth station sites.

Les Eighteen, the Andrew working supervisor sent to manage the project, was supplied with a 3-man construction crew with limited understanding of English. A translator was rarely available, so for most of the project Les demonstrated the task and the crew repeated the steps. It worked. Both antennas were built simultaneously and operational in one month.

During the installation in February, daytime temperatures averaged 30° C (86° F), and humidity was close to 90%. Rain was plentiful. On most days, the crew was treated to a thunderstorm that boomed in after 6p.m., producing two to four hours of spectacular lightning shows. The station began operations in August 2000; all the services were expected to be available within three months.

Since 1956, Sri Lanka has been home to Arthur C. Clarke, author of "2001: A Space Odyssey" and many other works of fiction and nonfiction.

Les contacted the 83-year-old author on the recommendation of two members of Mr. Abeywardana's staff, former employees at the Arthur C. Clarke Institute of Science. On the last Saturday Les was in the country, he was invited for a half-hour visit with Clarke. "Abey" drove Les to the house with six of the author's books in the hopes he would sign them. The visit lasted three times longer than scheduled - 1-1/2 hours - with discussions covering satellite antennas, microwave, coaxial cable, waveguide, and optical fiber as well as the space shuttle and American astronauts. Clarke signed each book.

Andrew can provide products, project management, and full turnkey service to meet customer needs anywhere. If we can help you with an earth station antenna product or system, click [here](#) and Ask the Experts.