

Keith Rysula (7/9/23)

My name is Keith Rysula and I worked for COMSAT Mobile Communications for a short time from 1997 to 2002. I'd like to contribute one historical item that always seems missing from the writings.

In 1994 (I may be off by a year or two), CMC formed a joint venture with Telekom Malaysia to provide INMARSAT services for the IOR region. At the time COMSAT did not have an IOR presence, so they entered into an agreement with TM. COMSAT did not want to build out an entire station on their own, so they housed all the equipment inside TM's INTELSAT station (built in 1970) in Kuantan, Malaysia that supported the A/M/B/Mini M..etc services for both TM and COMSAT. The only service not through this station was Standard C

The databases were partition to enable both COMSAT and TM to be able to provide services to their own respective customers. As newer services came along (like M4) and the INMARSAT digital satellites were introduced, COMSAT would always provide the equipment and expertise to enable these newer services. Also, co-location options were provided for companies like Fugro Omnistar who placed their own racks of equipment inside this same station to be able to uplink their DGPS services at the time.

The station was closed in 2002 after the CMC sale to Telenor, Telenor already had IOR coverage through their Eik Norway station, so the TM station in Kuantan was closed and all the equipment was removed except the 13m antenna and HPA equipment was left behind.

I don't know if this brief summary helps, but I thought I would send it in so there would be some mention of this little known station that COMSAT had.