

The CfAT Ltd Mobile Phone HotSpot

A place to connect when you are way out of range



Centre for Appropriate
Technology Limited

The Centre for Appropriate Technology Limited (CfAT Ltd) is an Aboriginal not-for-profit company, headquartered in Alice Springs NT. CfAT's focus is supporting sustainable and enterprising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through technology innovation, capacity building and employment.



To date, Hotspots have been successfully installed in 40 Northern Territory locations, with forward contracts for further units. Locations include tourist sites, roadside stops, and remote Indigenous communities.

For users of portable mobile-equipped voice or data devices such as smart phones and tablets, typical hand held outdoor coverage is limited to a distance of about 10-15 km from the nearest mobile tower. The main limiting factors are the strength of the signal received by the phone, and also the signal strength received from the phone at the 'tower'. These depend on the terrain, vegetation and obstructions in the line of sight path.

The Centre for Appropriate Technology Limited (CfAT Ltd) Mobile Phone HotSpot uses an **unpowered** passive parabolic 'dish' antenna technology **with no moving parts** to focus and amplify the received and transmitted signal strength at the user end, thus extending coverage well beyond the existing locations where hand held mobile use would otherwise not be possible. A very marginal one bar signal becomes two or three bars and enables calls to be made reliably.

The 'dish' is mounted some metres above the ground, and is to point at the nearest or most suitable tower.

In the standard configuration, the antenna height is arranged such that the phone can be either hand held by a user standing with the phone at the dish focus or mounted on the cradle provided, for hands-free loudspeaker mode operation.





WHY BUY WHEN YOU CAN LEASE?

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WHO CAN LEASE?

- Organisations/businesses who service remote Indigenous communities

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This solution works regardless of the user mobile device technology, and can be used in conjunction with any mobile network provider's network. In situations where a distant town provides multiple (Telstra, Optus, Vodafone) services, a single mobile phone hotspot can be used to connect with any of these services.

Whilst other product solutions are available for locations where 240 volt power is available and the associated equipment can be securely housed in an indoor environment, or where solar panel/inverter equipment can be secured and maintained cost-effectively and regularly, the robust CfAT Ltd mobile phone hotspot is ideally suited to the many outdoor situations such as roadside stops, small remote Indigenous settlements and remote tourism locations where the provision of power and the cost of maintenance would make the overall cost of ownership for powered solutions prohibitive.

An extended range version of the Hotspot is under development, and is expected to become available during 2017.

CfAT Ltd offers a full implementation service for potential customers, including site survey, fabrication, installation and signage, and we specialize in the provision of support and services to Indigenous people in remote locations.

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