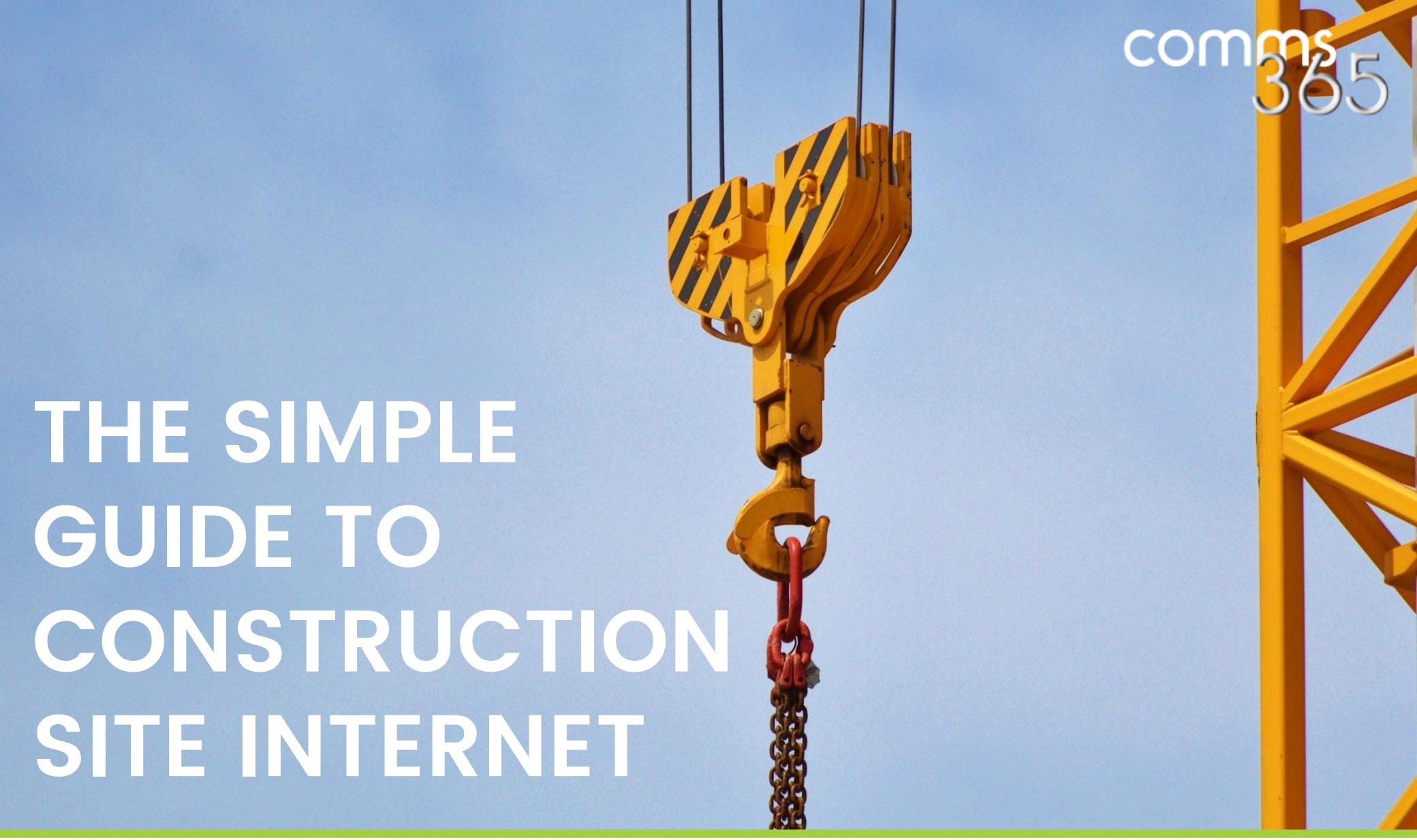
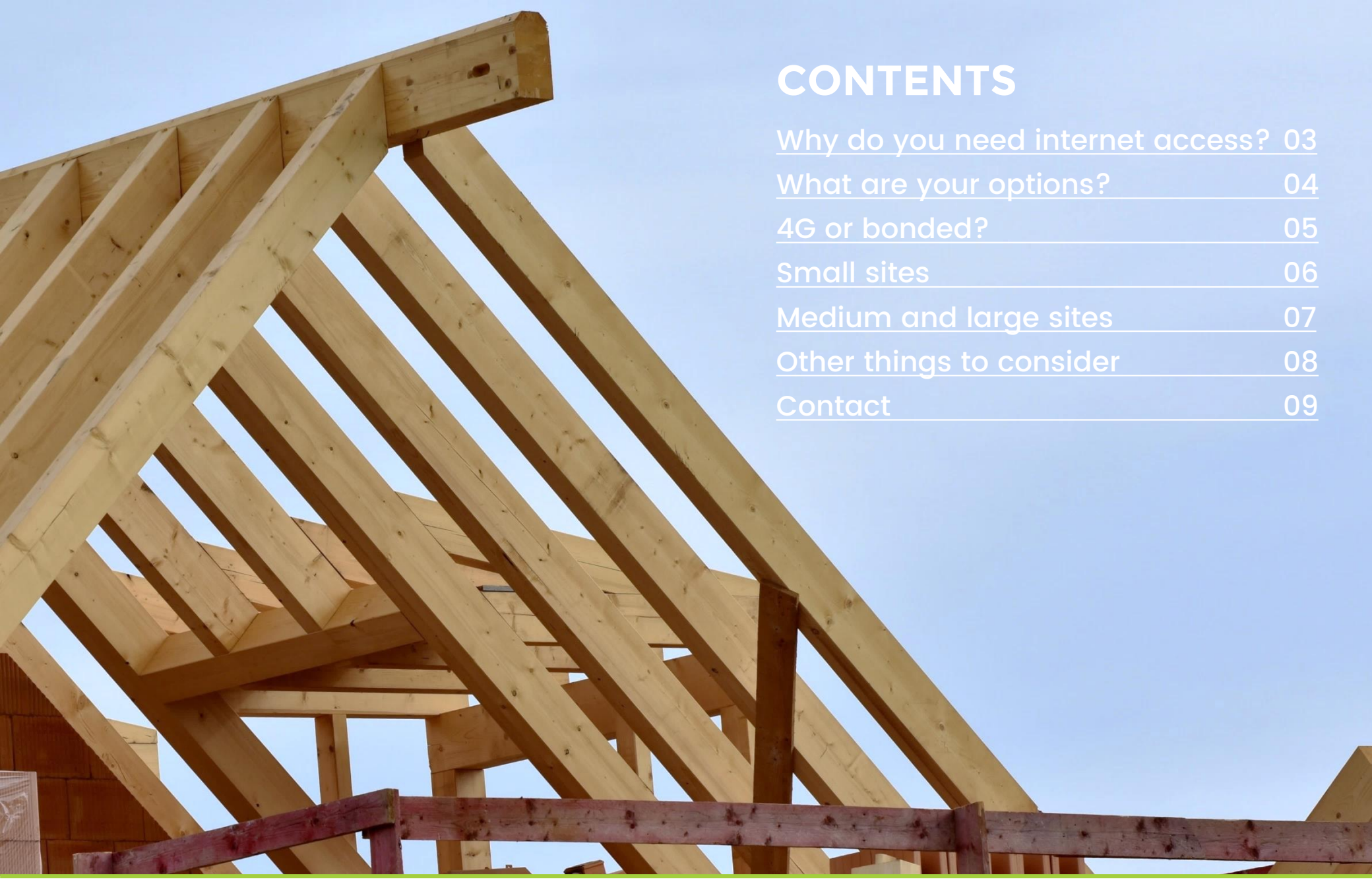


comms 365

# THE SIMPLE GUIDE TO CONSTRUCTION SITE INTERNET

For sites of any size in any location



# CONTENTS

Technology is increasingly important in construction, but getting an internet connection to site can still be a challenge.

## WHY DO YOU NEED INTERNET ACCESS?

As a construction site worker or construction IT professional, you're probably aware of the need for fast, reliable internet to support access to:

- On site communications such as email and VoIP (Voice over IP)
- Cloud based applications and modern design technologies (e.g. CAD and BIM)
- Online project management software
- VPN

However, getting internet access to a construction site can be a challenge.

## WHY IS IT SUCH A CHALLENGE?

Construction sites are often in locations where no existing internet infrastructure exists, so it can take a long time (sometimes longer than six months) to get traditional fixed line internet installed. This can cause problems for site workers and delay projects.

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Comms365 is an award-winning network services company.

This Guide sets out your options for construction site internet access. We've been working with construction companies for over 5 years providing internet connectivity for all types and sizes of construction site, so we understand the challenges you face.

**Contact us** for further advice or if you have any questions about this guide!

# WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

So what options do you have for getting an internet connection to your construction site?

Here we list the main methods and their pros and cons...

## Fixed Line (e.g. Ethernet or fibre)

**What is it?** An ethernet or fibre cable provides a connection to the internet. On site, the connection can be transmitted close range via Wi-Fi.

**Pros:** Reliable with good speeds

**Cons:** Installation can take months, causing project delays

## Satellite

**What is it?** A satellite internet connection is transmitted to and from a satellite dish on earth into space.

**Pros:** It can provide an internet connection in any location

**Cons:** Speeds are slow and it can be costly

## Dongle / Tethering

**What is it?** Internet data is transmitted using cellular internet technology. This is achieved with a portable dongle plugged into your computer or by establishing a connection to your phone.

**Pros:** Portable and fast to set up with reasonable speeds

**Cons:** Security concerns, susceptible to carrier outages and can only support one user at a time

## 4G Router and Fixed IP SIM

**What is it?** It's a more robust solution than a dongle. Comms365 routers have an inbuilt firewall and can be supplied with either a public or private fixed IP SIM for secure communications. Our SIMs are for business users only and as the data runs across our uncontended network it is less likely to be slowed down.

**Pros:** Portable, fast to set up, secure and reasonable speeds

**Cons:** Susceptible to carrier outages, limited users

## Bonded Internet

**What is it?** Bonded internet solutions can combine multiple 4G connections to provide a stronger and more reliable connection. Other connectivity methods, such as fixed lines, can also be bonded to improve performance.

**Pros:** Fast to set up, portable, secure, reliable and good speeds

**Cons:** Not suggested for smaller sites

At Comms365, we're experts in 4G fixed IP SIMs and Bonded Internet - and you can see from the pros and cons why we think these are the best solutions for construction! Next, we'll look more closely at whether 4G or Bonded Internet is best for your site.

*"Before we started using the Comms365 services, we had lots of delays with service providers letting us down getting new lines into our construction sites, so 4G has really allowed us to connect the sites earlier, which is a big help to the business"*

McCarthy & Stone

Read the full case study

# 4G OR BONDED – WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOUR SITE?

The biggest benefit of 4G and bonded 4G solutions is that they provide internet connectivity to a site in almost any location from day one.

They are also portable, meaning that they can be moved around site as needed, and relocated from site to site as different projects start and finish.

The difference between the two is that a 4G router and SIM solution is based on a single 4G connection, whereas a bonded solution combines multiple connections into one higher performance and more reliable connection.

There are a number of variables to consider when choosing the right connectivity solution for your site, however the main factor to consider is how many workers you have on site who will need internet access.

## Small Sites

For sites with **2-10 workers**, a 4G router and fixed IP SIM solution is normally suitable for providing an on site internet connection.

**Read more on Page 06**

## Medium and Large Sites

For sites of **10 workers or more**, a bonded solution can provide the internet speeds and bandwidth that are required on site.

**Read more on Page 07**

# SMALL SITES

A 4G fixed IP SIM and router solution provides internet speeds and bandwidth capable of supporting 2-10 workers from day one.

## What will I need?

You'll need a 4G router and SIM. The type of SIM required differs from a typical mobile phone SIM. A data only fixed IP SIM is designed specifically for business use and allows you to easily establish a secure connection to your company network.

## How does it work?

The router and SIM establish a 4G internet connection via the nearest cell tower using cellular internet technology. On site, you'll be able to connect your laptop or device to the router via Wi-Fi or an Ethernet cable.

## How do I set it up?

Some providers such as Comms365 can pre-configure your router and SIM, so when it arrives all you need to do is plug it into a power source. Alternatively, you can purchase the router and SIM separately to configure yourself.

## What are the key features?

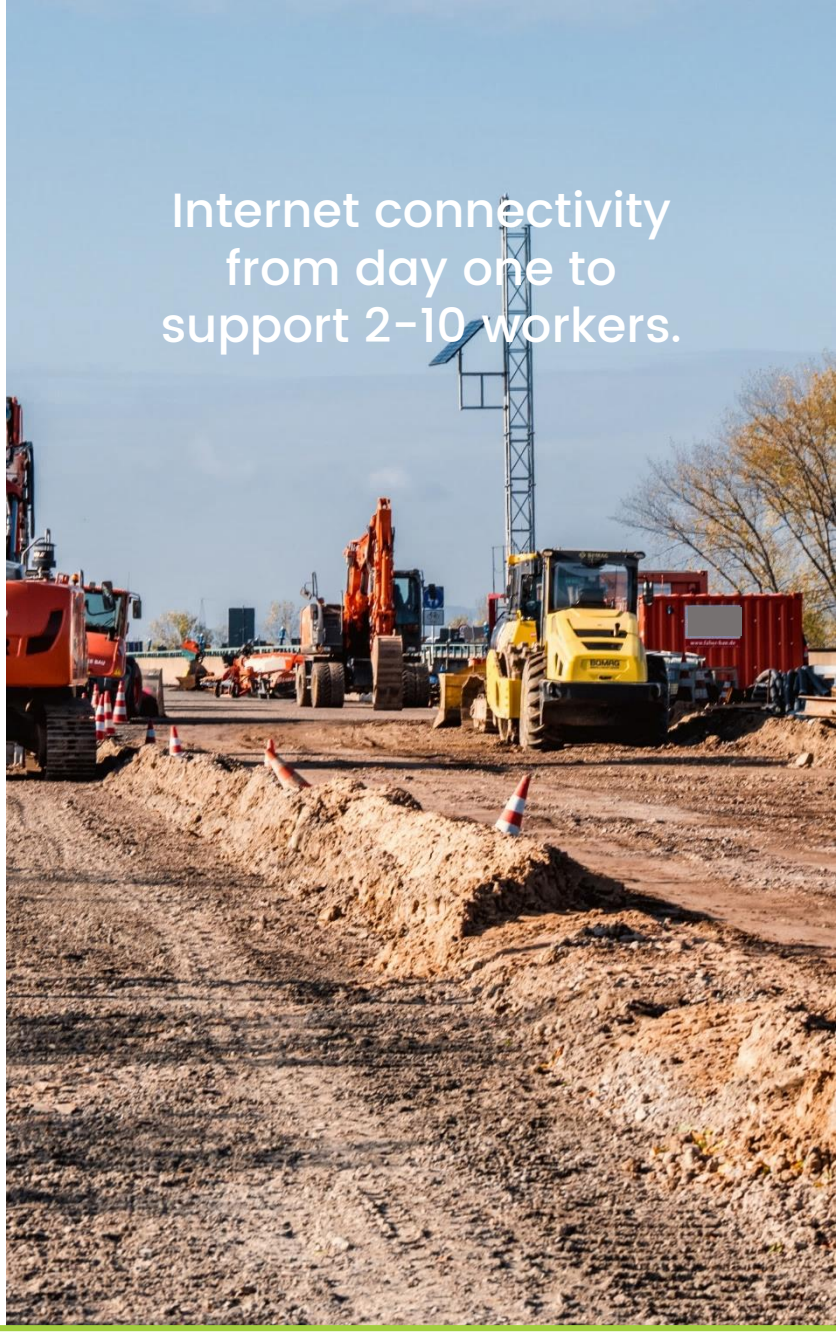
- Delivered to site within 2-3 days
- Fast 4G connectivity
- Connect in almost any location
- Available on EE, O2, Three and Vodafone
- Portable – move around site and to other sites

Read about 4G for construction ▶

See our range of 4G routers ▶

*"We have found Comms365 to be responsive in getting the SIM's dispatched and activated, which is most appreciated as we are placed under pressure to have connectivity on site day one, which is always challenging."*

McCarthy & Stone




# MEDIUM AND LARGE SITES

A bonded internet solution provides a reliable connection with speeds and bandwidth able to support a large number of site workers from day one.

## How does it work?

Bonded internet is a specialist solution so you'll need an expert provider such as Comms365 to provide a solution like Continuum.

Bonded internet combines multiple connections into one internet connection with enhanced performance and reliability. Depending on the performance required, we can bond from 3 to 12 connections. Any type of connectivity can be bonded, but 4G is typically used for construction to provide connectivity to almost any location.

## How do I set it up?

A bonded solution will normally be pre-configured by your provider so all you need to do is plug it into a power source. At Comms365 we remotely optimise the unit to ensure maximum performance. You'll be able to connect your laptop or device via Wi-Fi or an Ethernet cable. Read more.

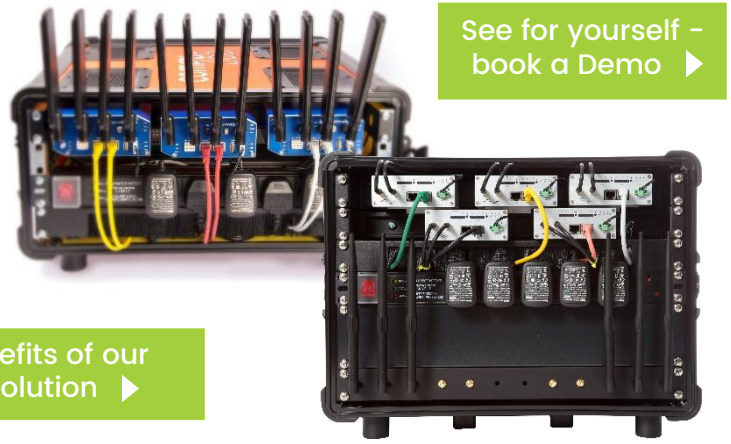
## What are the key features?

- Delivered to site within 2-3 days
- Superfast, reliable bonded connectivity
- Connect in almost any location
- Available in two sizes
- Rugged design
- Portable – move around site and to other sites

*"Not only did we need a solution that would work effectively in different environments, but a team who fully understood our requirements. Comms365 ticked all the boxes."*

MORRISON Utility Services
A part of MGroup Services

See for yourself - book a Demo



Check out the key benefits of our Continuum bonded solution

# OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

## Data packages

If you're considering a 4G solution or bonded 4G solution, you'll need to consider how much internet data you'll need. At Comms365 we offer a range of data packages and contract terms to suit your requirements across the four main network providers – EE, O2, Three and Vodafone. We also offer aggregated data packages for bonded solutions.

## VPN and Networking

If you want to use VPN or connect to other sites via Software-Defined Wide-Area Networking (SD-WAN), we can help by liaising with your IT department to get this set up.

## To buy or rent?

For both our 4G router & SIM and our Continuum bonded solutions, we offer purchase and rental options.

If you are working on a long-term project, or you want to own the unit and take it with you to other sites (both solutions are portable), purchase might be the most cost effective option for you. If it's a short-term project or you want to trial a solution before you buy, renting the solution might be the better option.

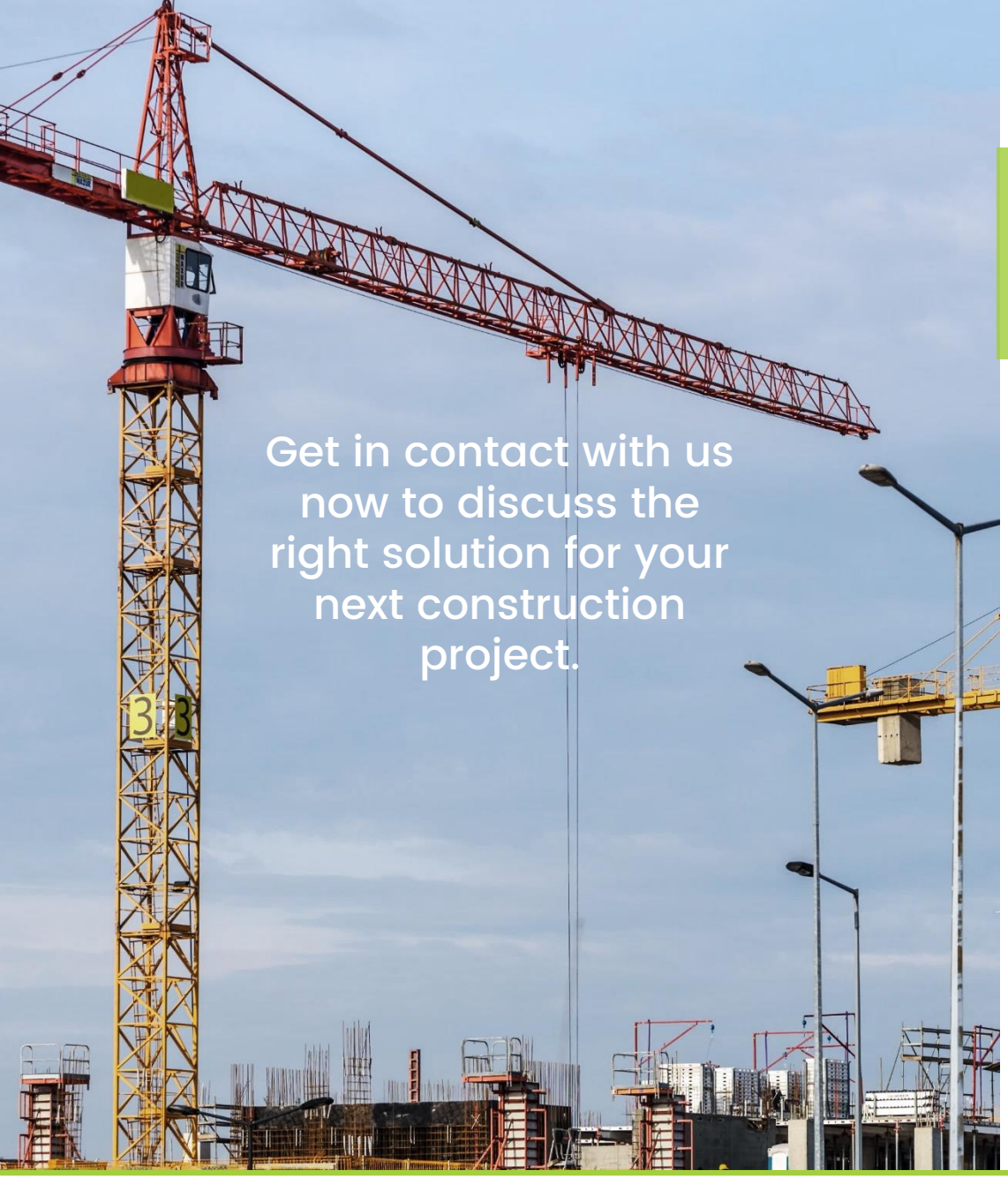
## Still unsure?

While site size is a good guideline, the most suitable solution for your construction project might differ depending on the different scenarios and projects you work on. An expert, such as someone from Comms365's experienced Sales Team, can help you make the right choice. Head to Page 09 for our contact details.

Read more about our rental solutions ▶

Check out the business case for bonded internet ▶

Why choose us to provide your site connectivity ▶




# CONTACT

T: 01234 865880
W: www.comms365.com
E: sales@comms365.com
Comms365, South House 3, Bond Avenue, Milton Keynes, MK1 1SW

Our services:

- 4G SERVICES — LEARN MORE >
- BONDED INTERNET — LEARN MORE >
- SD-WAN — LEARN MORE >
- IOT — LEARN MORE >
- ISP SERVICES — LEARN MORE >
- RENTAL SERVICES — LEARN MORE >

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