

# TELECOMS FIRM SETS UP DRONE CONNECTIONS

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Telecommunications firm Smart would provide highspeed connectivity for a drone system that the Philippine Red Cross will use for its disaster response efforts.



The drone system, which would operate on Smart’s frequencies during emergencies, was part of “Nokia Saving Lives,” a program that aimed to provide communications technology and technical assistance to emergency response teams.

The system consisted of drones, a portable data center, a mobile broadband network and applications like video streaming, gas detection, mapping and analytics.

These would enable Red Cross to provide emergency aid to communities in a more timely, effective and efficient way.

Using Smart’s high-speed LTE connectivity and Nokia’s ultracompact network, the system could create secure communication lines between drones, other equipment, and rescue team members.

Drones could be equipped with cameras, sensors and speakers and also be used to carry first aid kits.

Ramon R. Isberto, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Smart public affairs chief, said the project was part of the companies’ commitment to “deploy tech innovations for the benefit of communities.”

Smart is one of the three founding signatories of GSMA’s Human Connectivity Charter.