

# Terminal velocity



How quickly can a rally photographer stranded in the mountains get his pictures onto a website? With the latest wireless gadgets at his fingertips, the answer is now as little as **90 seconds**. Here's how it was done

At the Rally Great Britain last November, Nikon UK put a wireless-equipped D2H in the hands of worldrallypics.com photographer Richard Franklin. The aim was to deliver an image from the camera to the wordrallypics.com website in record time without human intervention.

Franklin's D2H, combined with the WT-1 wireless pack, was set up to shoot 'normal' JPEGs (about 1MB in size) and to transmit automatically from the depths of the Welsh Brecon Beacons mountain range, while shooting. The system can also be set to transmit only selected images.

Transmission status is on constant display while in use and there is also the facility to transmit JPEGs while storing NEF originals on the card. This keeps transmission fast while archive-quality NEF files are kept as 'negatives'.

The lightweight (35g) transmitter attaches to the camera base and hooks up via the D2H's USB 2.0 port. It comes with an antenna with a 30m range, but Franklin used the optional aerial WA-E1 which extends the range to 150m.

The wireless set-up used in the field was basic 'Ad Hoc Mode'. This means that the files were transmitted via 802.11b transfer from the WT-1 directly to a WiFi-enabled Toshiba laptop. With this technology the camera and laptop can communicate without a Wireless Access Point.

Franklin says: 'I found my way around the controls really easily and the camera shows the status of the link between the camera and the satellite modem so you know that the data is transferring.'

'You feel quite redundant once you have taken the pictures because normally you would be racing back to the press office to send the pictures

and I don't have to do that with the D2H.'

The laptop used in the field was equipped with FotoWare digital image management software – with on-site support from Medialogix – and configured to receive, store and automatically transmit the files shot at the rally. Previously created IPTC templates containing captioning information were added to the file and sent through the distribution software, via the Inmarsat Regional Satellite modem, to the web server in Birmingham.

This satellite offers a high speed GPRS service and covers Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, India, parts of Russia and China.

Once the images arrived on the server in Birmingham, the software automatically

processed and resized them before loading them onto [www.worldrallypix.com](http://www.worldrallypix.com). The images were then immediately available for clients to browse, download and purchase.

For the first time at a WRC event, images were available to download from the press centre before the text. The shortest time from shutter to website was 90 seconds.

The workflow proved fast and successful and it is only a matter of time before this networking solution will be used beyond sports and news coverage. You only had to look around the press centre at the level of interest shown by representatives of car manufacturers, police forces and medical institutions to see the potential of wireless technology to affect the way we all work.



Credit: Richard Franklin/Worldrallypics.com

Nikon D2H equipped with WT-1 wireless pack

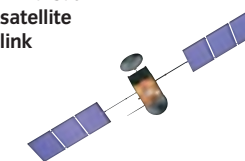
START  
**00**  
SECONDS



Laptop computer with Medialogix FotoWare image handling software



Inmarsat satellite link



Worldrallypics.com

FINISH  
**90**  
SECONDS

