What to demand from your wireless vendor

If the vendor shows you the average, you are buying the average, so demand the worst case, proven on your floor.

Put these in the specification

- ☐ Worst-case roam time, measured on the production client under production security.
- ☐ The maximum gap, not the mean, held against the vehicle's shortest loss-of-comms timer.
- ☐ A DFS plan: which channels are DFS and why, and every radar event in the logs.
- ☐ A written channel and power plan, and a rule for when automatic changes may run.
- ☐ Firmware and configuration changes tested, with roll-back, only in agreed windows.
- ☐ QoS marking preserved end to end, in both directions, proven by capture.
- ☐ A map of SSIDs, VLANs, and channels that shows which traffic shares airtime.
- ☐ A survey along every vehicle path, racks full and empty, with metal moving.
- ☐ Acceptance with production vehicles at top speed, full fleet, plant running.
- ☐ Logs from the network, the vehicle, and the fleet manager on one clock.

Numbers that frame the conversation

- ☐ DFS: listen 60 s before use, leave within 10 s of radar, stay off at least 30 min.
- ☐ At 2.0 m/s, one AMR's rated maximum, every second of outage is 2 m traveled.
- ☐ Latency can grow with clients on a channel while the average barely moves.

Planning aid, not a safety calculation. Safety functions, reaction times, and stopping distances come from the machine builder's risk assessment and the applicable standards.

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