

How Solaris Works

Solaris Cell:

An abstract entity that groups the voluntary members of a small geographic community (village, hamlet, municipality). Cells have a **horizontal organization**: no one directs anyone else. Roles can be changed at any time. However, there is an organizational structure to facilitate operations:

- **Coordinators** ensure the smooth functioning of the cell.

Referents connect members with requests to those who can fulfill them. When a cell is created, a dedicated email address is set up in the format: "cell.locality.postalcode@proton.me".

This email serves to communicate with members and is also referenced on the information channel for the canton (Telegram). Generally, many requests will arrive in this inbox as long as the internet is still functional.

- A Telegram account is also created (e.g., Cell Lost City 1234).
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Members:

Members form the fabric of the Solaris network. They are local residents within villages and geographic communities. On a purely voluntary and selfless basis, they participate in the network, dedicating their time and skills to help others. They expect nothing in return but know that when they are in need, the network will be there for them, and others will share their own skills.

Members submit their requests to their cell's referents through any means they prefer (in person, by phone, email, Telegram, radio, carrier pigeon, etc.).

Coordinators:

Coordinators ensure the proper functioning of the cell and its communication with neighboring cells and the rest of the network. They uphold the values promoted by the Solaris movement. There are **three coordinators** per cell to ensure that at least one is always available and reachable. Coordinators personally know their counterparts in neighboring or even more distant cells. When a new cell is created, it is **essential** to establish these human connections by reaching out to the coordinators of neighboring cells.

Referents:

There are **three referents** per cell, for the same reasons as the coordinators. Referents are contacted directly by members or, in some cases, by referents from another cell who submit a request to them. They maintain an updated registry, called a **directory**, which contains information about members (name, first name, address, phone number, email, various skills and talents, material resources, etc., that could provide assistance to the network). This directory exists in **three copies**, one with each referent, and is regularly synchronized.

For **confidentiality and durability**, the directory must also exist in a **paper version** and **never leaves the cell**. Only the referents know its contents. Referents personally know their counterparts in neighboring cells and take the necessary steps to get to know them if they do not already.

How Solaris Operates

If a request cannot be fulfilled by the skills available within the cell, the referent contacts their counterparts in neighboring cells. If that is still insufficient, those counterparts do the same, and so on, until a competent person is found. This is the principle of the "**human internet.**"

As long as our technologies are functional, phone or email seem to be the fastest ways to contact other cells. Otherwise, **radio communication (CB, walkie-talkies, etc.)** is strongly recommended. Coordinators, referents, and any members who wish to do so are advised to dedicate some time to training in radio use (not all options are suitable for all terrains).

Referents and coordinators can return to being regular members, but they must **find and train replacements** and inform their future former counterparts in neighboring cells to ensure the network's continuity. It would also be good practice to inform the community of members to avoid potential malfunctions.

It is useful to recall that if a request involves **equipment** (trailer, tool, etc.), to avoid any issues involving damage or injury—and because Solaris is **not a lending service**—Solaris-Suisse has specified that the **competent person fulfills the request using their own equipment in the presence of the requester.** This also fosters human connection.

Anyone can leave the network at any time, but it is advisable to notify the coordinators and referents.

Contact:

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