

COCAINE AND ECSTASY LAB

Local drug ring busted

As part of Operation Poseidon TF, a local drugs ring has been dismantled and six people were arrested.

It was a network that has apparently contributed significantly to the distribution of cocaine and the party drug ecstasy (MDMA) in Tenerife and La Palma. The band's alleged head, a 29-year-old Colombian, was one of those arrested. Police sources claim that the ring used so-called mules to bring cocaine from South America to Tenerife. Mostly they are believed to have been people in financial difficulties or people known to the police who were loyal to the organisation. Once on the island, the cocaine was supposedly cut and made ready for sale, so that the financial profit could be maximised. The designer drug MDMA was apparently produced in their own laboratory.

The investigation began in February of this year when two people were arrested at Los Llanos de Aridane in La Palma, who were carrying two kilograms of cocaine and sus-



pected of acting as mules. In early March, another alleged gang member, a 32-year-old man from El Paso in La Palma was arrested at the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife. He was carrying one kilogram of cocaine. In mid-July, a 30-year-old Cuban who lives in Los Llanos de Aridane, hid 300 grams of cocaine to take it to La Palma and was arrested during a check at the port of Los Cristianos. He is supposedly regarded as a close

↑ *It seems the gang concentrated mainly on the distribution of cocaine and ecstasy*
 → *Drugs and other evidence were seized*

confidante of the organisation's management. The knowledge gained from this detention served to intensify the investigation and finally led to the arrest of the gang's alleged head in mid-August. The Colombian was about to leave Tenerife on a flight to his homeland.

At the same time, a suspected confidante of the gang leader, a 47-year-old Canarian from El Paso, was arrested and the apartments of the two detained men in Santa Cruz de Tenerife were searched. One kilogram of ecstasy in lump form, 700 grams of cocaine, 600 grams of marijuana, over eleven kilograms of materials for cutting, €19,000 in cash, several vehicles, aids for processing and packaging the drugs, computers and telephones as well as several scales were seized. A total of six people of different nationalities and four kilograms of cocaine were also seized as part of the operation. In addition, a laboratory where ecstasy was being produced was dismantled. According to the Guardia Civil investigators, the drugs ring that would presumably have put thousands of doses of synthetic drugs on the market has been taken down. ■



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