Digital Access Control for innovative development

The safeguarding of premises through the monitoring of entrance and exit points has traditionally been a very manual aspect of security. Human operators have been relied on to make decisions about who to admit and deny based on levels of authorisation and the appropriate credentials. But the access control business, like many industries before it, is undergoing its own digital transformation; one where the protection of premises, assets and people is increasingly delivered by interconnected systems utilising IoT devices and cloud infrastructure to offer greater levels of security and protection.

Modern access control solutions range from simple card readers to two factor authentication systems using video surveillance as a secondary means of identification, right through to complex networks of thermal cameras, audio speakers and sensors. These systems, connected through the cloud, can be customised and scaled to meet the precise requirements of today's custom-

ers. It's the ease of cloud integration, combined with open technologies and platforms that is encouraging increasing collaboration and exciting developments, while rendering legacy systems largely unfit for purpose.

Cloud technology and IoT connectivity means remote management and advanced diagnostics form an integral part of every security solution. For example, as the world faces an unprecedented challenge and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause disruption, the ability to monitor and manage access to sites remotely is a welcome advantage for security teams who might otherwise have to check premises in person and risk breaking social distancing regulations.

The benefits of not physically having to be on site extend to the locations within which these technologies can be utilised. As an example, within a critical infrastructure energy project, access can be granted remotely for maintenance on hard to reach locations. Advanced diag-

nostics can also play a part in such a scenario. When access control is integrated with video surveillance and IP audio, real-time monitoring of access points can identify possible trespassers with automated audio messages used to deter illegal access and make any dangers clear; and with video surveillance in the mix, high quality footage can be provided to authorities with real-time evidence of a crime in progress.

The use of connected technologies for advanced protection extends to many forward-looking applications. Within the retail industry, autonomous, cashier-less stores are already growing in popularity. Customers are able to use mobile technology to self-scan their chosen products and make payments, all by using a dedicated app. From an access control and security perspective, connected doors can be controlled to protect staff and monitor shopper movement.

Remote management includes tasks such

as rolling out firmware updates or restarting door controllers, with push notifications sent immediately to security personnel in the event of a breach or a door left open. In the storage facility space, this too can now be entirely run through the cloud with remote monitoring of access control and surveillance providing a secure and streamlined service. There is much to gain from automating the customer journey, where storage lockers are selected online and, following payment, customers are granted access.

Through an app the customer can share their access with others, check event logs, and activate notifications. With traditional padlocks the sharing of access is not as practical, and it's not easy for managers to keep a record of storage locker access. Online doors and locks enable mon-

itoring capabilities and heightened security for both operators and customers. The elimination of manual tasks, in both scenarios, represents cost savings. When doors are connected to the cloud, their geographical location is rendered largely irrelevant.

They become IoT devices which are fully integrated and remotely programmable from anywhere, at any time. This creates a powerful advantage for the managers of these environments, making it possible to report on the status of a whole chain of stores, or to monitor access to numerous storage facilities, using the intelligence that the technology provides from the data it collects.

All of these examples rely on open technology to make it possible, allowing developers and technology providers to

avoid the pitfalls that come with the use of proprietary systems.

The limitations of such systems have meant that the ideas, designs and concepts of the few have stifled the creativity and potential of the many, holding back innovation and letting the solutions become tired and their application predictable. Proprietary systems have meant that solution providers have been unable to meet their customers' requirements until the latest upgrades available or a new solution is rolled out.

This use of open technology enables a system that allows for collaboration, the sharing of ideas and for the creation of partnerships to produce ground-breaking new applications of technology. Open systems demonstrate a confidence in a vendor's own solutions and a willingness

Dear Reader

The Central Government of India has announced phase one of the 'Unlock' process. With the novel coronavirus infection still raging and increasing each day with no signs of plateauing as yet, getting the workforce to come back to work, especially for the security system integrators, will be a huge challenge.

The workforce at the basic level employed by installers, and contractors, particularly in large cities such as Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore among others, invariably hail from smaller towns and villages. So when the lockdown was announced, they felt trapped and out of work, unable to move out from their rented homes in the larger cities. Many small time system integrators, unable to pay their wages, even gave them pink slips. Their landlords gave them the ultimatum to vacate their rented accommodation, if they are unable to pay their rents. Feeling ambushed, this workforce bore the economic brunt of COVID-19 the most in the security automation industry. As a result, whenever they found an opportunity to sneak out, they started making their way back to their hometowns and villages. Images of lakhs of people trudging on foot or sleeping on roads were splashed by the media, reminding many senior citizens of the days when the partition between India and Pakistan happened.

Now that the 'unlock' process has been initiated, we are likely to experience the unavailability of workers at the basic level. The wiring contractors will be most hit, and projects which had ground to a halt due to the lockdown are unlikely to restart and gather the previous momentum anytime soon. It's just not the shortage of labour, even availability of materials and at times the transportation of the materials from manufacturers/importers to distributors to installers to the actual sites is also a challenge these days. In fact, economic impact will be felt most in Q3 of this year.

Another bottleneck which seems to be emerging is at the end users of the home security systems. They are wary of allowing installers and technicians into their homes to either install new security systems or service existing ones. The fear of infection is inducing this behaviour.

The other trend which is noticeable is that some big brands seem to have shifted their focus from security to medical supplies such as IR Thermometers, face masks and other related items connected with COVID-19. This move is significant as they possibly see greater opportunities in the medical supplies business compared to security automation, for the present at least. Security system dealers at the lower level of the market too seem to be selling items such as hand sanitisers and their dispensers, face masks, gloves, IR Thermometers, disinfectants, safety signages and practically anything and everything related to COVID-19, which end users may want. Inevitably, due to intense competition, profit margins, in even this area, will dwindle and dealers who are slow to market will find themselves straddled with unsold stocks of a newer kind, leading to a greater financial stress due to stuck cash flow.

The workers who flocked back to their small towns and villages are not welcome there on account of the fear of their carrying the Covid-19 disease, and the lack of gainful employment opportunities there, thus placing a greater financial burden on the already stretched resources at home (which was the original reason they left home). The workers themselves are reluctant to return to their city jobs on account of their already depleted financial resources and no guarantees on how they will be treated by their former landlords and employers. These workers are effectively trapped between the proverbial "devil and the deep sea".

The next few months will be crucial in deciding the fate of not only the entrepreneurs in the security systems industry but also the workers, who are crucial to the survival and resurgence of that industry.

There is a very strong need to act with farsightedness and empathy. Will we be able to rise to the occasion?

Till we meet next month,

Cheers, Stay Safe and Keep Others Safe.

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Paxton's must-have video entry line adds a range of smart video intercom product solutions

Paxton Access Inc. has added to their video intercom product line by launching the next generation standard monitor, the Entry Standard monitor. Designed with simplicity in mind, this versatile monitor offers a feature-rich and cost-effective solution for a range of applications, from schools and hospitals to offices and apartments.

Like other Paxton products, this new Entry Standard monitor is engineered with a focus on simplicity and ease-of-use. Excellent audio quality, full-duplex voice communication and a clear user interface on a 4.3" capacitive touch screen make it the ideal solution for users. The monitor can be quickly and easily installed either on a wall or desk mounted with or without a handset.

The premium user interface with call and event log can be easily personalised with 14 different theme designs. A smart new call snapshot feature enables the users to see their missed calls, so they never miss a visitor again. The whole Entry video intercom system consists of three components that auto-detect on set up; external panel, interior monitor and door control unit.

This monitor is a real plug and play solution that can be used with a range of panel options, standard, premium and vandal resistant, making the whole system flexible for a wide variety of sites. The Entry video intercom system is fully compatible with Paxton's cutting-edge Net2 networked access control system, as well as working as a standalone solution. It comes with Paxton's five-year warranty. When integrating Entry video intercom with Paxton's Net2 access control system, the standard monitor features action buttons giving customers an additional layer of control with functionality like opening other doors on the system or unlocking external gates.

Tyco DSC PowerSeries Pro intrusion security alarm system

The new EN Grade 3-compliant Tyco DSC PowerSeries Pro intrusion security alarm system provides a feature-rich intrusion detection solution for commercial properties of any size, from small shops to large office buildings, factories, healthcare facilities and educational campuses.

The PowerSeries Pro completes the JCI intrusion product portfolio with integrators now able to single-source a complete electronic security solution for commercial installations from Johnson Controls.

Key features

- PowerSeries Pro is ideal for the most demanding applications where a Grade 3 system is an essential requirement or just a reference to follow.
- PowerSeries Pro has a high-current capability, making it well-suited for large-scale buildings where large numbers of contacts and sensors need to be installed.
- All the communication, whether internal between the system components or external with the monitoring center, is cyber secure, meeting the highest standards with AES-128 bit encryption.

PowerSeries Pro is supplied with removable terminal strips and programming templates, as well as ethernet and Wi-Fi capabilities to reduce installation and system commissioning time. There is also a supporting installers' app which can be run on a smartphone or tablet to program the system locally.

Hybrid option

PowerSeries Pro also offers a highly effective hybrid intrusion security alarm solution by providing the option to install a combination of hardwired and wireless detectors and sensors. With built-in 128-bit AES encryption and cyber protection capabilities, the hybrid option provides an EN Grade 2-equivalent solution which capitalises on unique PowerG technology – an "invisible wire". PowerG features multi-channel frequency hopping and provides true two-way wireless communication. It also has the ability to transmit detector activation alerts over long distances. This offers potential major cost and operational benefits by being able to have one control unit handle alarm activity from detectors located in multiple buildings on a site.

Digital Access Control for...

to share and encourage others to innovate and to facilitate joint learning.

An example of the dynamic use of open technology is Axis' physical access control hardware, which enables partners to develop their own cloud-based software for control and analysis of access points, all the while building and expanding on Axis' technology platform. Open hardware, systems and platforms create opportunities for smaller and younger companies to participate and compete, giving them a good starting point, and some leverage within the industry when building and improving upon existing, proven technologies.

This is important for the evolution and continual relevance of the physical security industry in a digitally enabled world. Through increased collaboration across technology platforms, and utilising the full range of possibilities afforded by the cloud environment, the manufacturers, vendors and installers of today's IP enabled access control systems can continue to create smart solutions to meet the ever-changing demands and requirements of their customers across industry.

FLIR Thermal Smart Sensor for Elevated Skin Temperature Screening

FLIR Systems, Inc. has announced the FLIR A400/A700 Thermal Smart Sensor and Thermal Image Streaming fixed camera solutions for monitoring equipment, production lines, critical infrastructure, and screening for elevated skin temperatures. These highly configurable smart camera systems provide accurate, non-contact temperature monitoring across a wide range of disciplines: manufacturing process control, product development, emissions monitoring, waste management, facilities maintenance, and Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) improvements.

The FLIR A400/A700 Thermal Smart Sensor solution initially will be prioritized for those responding to COVID-19. For all applications, the series offers multi-image streaming, edge computing, and Wi-Fi connectivity to help speed data flow and enable faster decisions, improving productivity and safety for professionals.

FLIR designed the A400/A700 cameras with two configurations to better meet application-specific needs. The Thermal Smart Sensor configuration, recommended for measuring elevated skin temperatures, incorporates advanced measurement tools and alarms with edge computing to enable faster critical decisions. The Image Streaming configuration provides multiple thermal streaming capabilities to help optimize process control, improve quality assurance, or identify potential failures that could shut down a production line.

Users design their systems by choosing either the Smart Sensor or Imaging Streaming config-urations, selecting either the A400 or A700 camera body based on the resolutions they need, and then adding lenses and a range of optional features to fit their application.

"For more than 40 years, FLIR thermal imaging has provided technologies for professionals to improve not only their capabilities, but also their safety on the job," says Jim Cannon, President and CEO at FLIR. "As the world works together to face the global COVID-19 pandemic, given the need for this technology, FLIR will prioritize initial deliveries of this new A-series camera to professionals using it in elevated skin temperature screening as an adjunct to other elevated body temperature screening tools to help to fight the spread of the virus."

Also, FLIR is currently in beta testing for an automated elevated skin temperature screening software solution that is fully integrated with its United States Food and Drug Administration-certified thermal cameras. The solution is designed to rapidly increase the accuracy, ease-of-use, and speed of existing screening procedures.

Hikvision launches "Touch-free" MinMoe face recognition terminals

Hikvision announced its new access control and time attendance offerings, the MinMoe Face Recognition Terminals, promising a new era of face recognition access control is coming. To meet a multitude of real-world scenarios and customer needs, the MinMoe Face Recognition Terminals line-up features four series: Value Series, Pro Series, Ultra Series, and Face Recognition Modules for Turnstile. With powerful functions and competitive prices, the Value Series (DS-K1T341A/DS-K1T331) products have been uniquely designed for SMB scenarios, such as offices and retail shops.

Hikvision MinMoe Face Recognition Terminals are powered by a deep learning algorithm, which increases accuracy of face recognition to over 99% and enhances verification speeds to under 0.2 seconds. The enhanced verification rates and accuracy ensure a pleasant, "touch-free" experience for users – a vast improvement over swiping ID cards or fingerprint scans.

Furthermore, MinMoe Face Recognition Terminals perform well in low- and even zero-light environments. Equipped with dual lenses – a visible light lens and an infrared lens – MinMoe Face Recognition Terminals will only grant access when both lenses detect the same person, as well as determine whether the face is actual, not an image. This anti-spoofing technology makes access control management much safer and prevents most attendance fraud.

Along with door linkage, MinMoe Face Recognition Terminals can be linked with NVRs for data recording and storage. They can also be linked with network cameras to allow clear video recording of the scene when any pre-set events are triggered. Meanwhile, MinMoe products provide an abundance of third-party integration options for extensive compatibility, allowing quick and cost-effective connections between MinMoe Face Recognition Terminals and customers' existing door control and attendance systems.

Ring 3rd-gen video doorbells with privacy zone feature

Ring has unveiled two new video doorbells, the Ring Video Doorbell 3 and Ring Video Doorbell 3 Plus, as well as its new Pre-Roll feature, which captures the four seconds before motion is detected to help users see what triggered a motion alert.

"At Ring, we are continuously pushing the boundaries to bring the most innovative devices and features to our customers," says Jamie Siminoff, Ring's founder and chief inventor.

"While features similar to Pre-Roll have been available on our wired devices, we believe it is important to also offer this feature to users with a battery-powered video doorbell, so that no one ever misses a moment at their doorstep. With Ring Video Doorbell 3 and Ring Video Doorbell 3 Plus, we're excited to continue bringing customers even more home security options, while keeping user privacy and control front and center."

Ring Video Doorbell 3 and Ring Video Doorbell 3 Plus include a new, adjustable motion zone called "near zone" that can detect motion within five to 15 feet of the front door, as well as enhanced dual-band 2.4GHz/5GHz WiFi for improved connectivity.

The products also feature privacy zones, which allow users to exclude areas of the camera field of view from video recording. Similar to all of Ring's Doorbells and Cams, both the new doorbells feature toggles that allow users to turn off video or audio recording for an extra layer of privacy, at any time.

Tagmaster releases advanced RFID reader

Tagmaster is launching a new advanced RFID reader, XT-5, for identification in parking and access control solutions. The XT-5 is marketed in two versions - one designed according to the European specification and one according to the US specification. The XT-5 is an RFID reader designed and optimised for solutions in the access control area and for parking applications such as airport car parks, rail yards and bus depots, automated truck activities and internal logistics.

"XT-5 is our most advanced integrated reader to date. It features a radio design with high output power, self-jammer cancellation (SJC) and control of the antenna polarisation. This means that we strengthen our role as a world leader in the field," said Jonas Svensson, CEO, Tagmaster.

XT-5 is an advanced Linux-based integrated reader with PoE+ and built-in antenna. It supports various interfaces such as Ethernet, RS232, RS485 and Wiegand/Magstripe and with the possibility of adding an extra external antenna. XT-5 is configured for the most common access control systems such as Paxton, Dormakaba, Bosch, RCO, Siemens / Bewator, Assa Abloy, HID and more.

The XT-5 is also compatible with the RAIN RFID standard. It supports Tagmaster's Securemark ID, ID tag format, which is designed to ensure that each ID tag has a unique identity that is difficult to copy. XT-5 in combination with Tagmaster's Securemark ID tags provide the highest level of security.

XT-5 is marketed in two versions - one designed according to the European specification and one according to the US specification. Both versions will also be available with the global regions setting module assuring they will be covering most of the global frequency standards. "The new XT-5 reader follows the launch of XT-1ETC last year and demonstrates our continued commitment to innovation and investment in the future," said Jonas Svensson.

Pedestal PRO and Aiphone launch freestanding entry station tower

Pedestal PRO, the manufacturer for access control pedestals, in co-operation with Aiphone, the international manufacturer of intercom and security communication products, has introduced a freestanding entry station tower for use with Aiphone's multitenant GT Series.

Pedestal PRO's 64TOW-AIP-001-304 is a beautiful, low-profile, brushed stainless steel tower designed to accommodate the Aiphone GT-DMBN-SSP Video Entry Station component. Its modern shape, featuring a tapered top and mirror-finished corners, complements the public face of premium real estate while providing a turn-key mounting option for use in decorative entryways, glass lobbies or anywhere that wall mounting is not desirable or possible.

It is also suitable for outdoor use; its #304 stainless steel construction is rust-resistant, and can withstand Category 5 hurricane force winds. The tower's one-piece design and ¼ inch thick base plate holds steady regardless of use and abuse. Custom powder-coating, as well as custom tower heights, are available upon request.

The mounting flexibility, durability and attractive appearance of the 64TOW-AIP-001-304 offers property management firms an easy and affordable way to standardise installation of Aiphone GT Entry Stations across their entire property. Security integrators will appreciate the tower's hassle-free installation. Dimensions and mounting holes align perfectly with Aiphone's GT-DMBN-SSP. An optional bolt kit is also available from Pedestal PRO.

For other Aiphone devices, including GT-Series Video Guard Stations and Tenant Stations, as well as Entry Stations that require creative mounting options, the Pedestal PRO custom design team will create project-specific drawings and configure pedestal solutions at no extra charge.

Salto provides revolutionary access control technology for lockers and cabinets

The capability of effectively extending real time, online and mobile enabled smart electronic access control to lockers and cabinets has eluded the security market – until now. By incorporating BLE (Bluetooth Low Energy) technology into their latest electronic locker lock, SALTO has delivered a product that extends up-to-date comprehensive electronic access control to lockers, cabinets, and essentially anywhere.

The ability to deliver real-time electronic access control wirelessly to peripheral devices like lockers or cabinets has been long desired in the security industry. There are a variety of needs for securing the contents of lockers. In the workplace, lockers can contain property or expensive equipment. In gyms, lockers in locker rooms hold clothing and personal effects. Lockers and cabinets in the medical field, for example, can contain drugs, and, in retail, cabinets or lockers can contain cash and other valuables.

SALTO has been a provider of electronic access control for lockers with the XS4 locker lock, but the new version adds game changing BLE functionality. Adding BLE capabilities to SALTO's XS4 Locker Lock solution not only offers the most up-to-date protection for lockers and cabinets, but it also delivers the capability for end-users to control these devices with mobile phones and expands usage to additional SALTO platforms – like use with SALTO KS -Keys as a Service-cloud-based access control technology.

SALTO BLUEnet Wireless was developed to meet the highest demands related to security, connectivity and ease of use and has now been successfully extended to the SALTO XS4 Locker BLE. It is networked through Bluetooth RF and is specially designed for door lock applications where real-time control is required. Control and management of access points can be done remotely and in real-time.

The SALTO BLUEnet Wireless engine allows the operator to monitor live access control events and provides the ability to unlock the locker lock, change its opening mode, activate a lockdown, monitor live door status or change physical access rules in the access plan, all wirelessly and in real-time. The SALTO XS4 Locker BLE is an ergonomic design based on the same housing and mechanical mechanisms of the original version. A locking thumb turn makes for easy use – even with wet hands. The outer thumb turn – with a red and green indicator indicating availability of the locker – has an electronically managed release. Ready-to-install into pre-existing doors, it is designed as a replacement locker lock and can be used to quickly secure any pre-existing cabinet.

And at a time where contagious viruses and bacteria dominate the headlines, it's impressive that the XS4 Locker BLE comes with BioCote Antimicrobial Technology that can reduce bacteria by up to 99.99% as standard. Electronic access control in general and the SALTO XS4 Locker BLE specifically, eliminate the problems of key management, a user losing a key, or leaving a locker lock in a locked state for a long period of time.

DMP launches a network thinline keypad for XR series alarm panel

When one installs an XR Series alarm panel in a building that's already wired for an IP network, they're in luck. DMP's new 7463 Network Thinline Keypad gives them the advantage of saving money by easily plugging into the existing network.

Perhaps they're installing DMP in a remote building in which running new wire would be costly. Instead, install DMP's new 7463 keypad and keep the job costs lower, all while they continue to get the same reliable functionality and performance of DMP's hardwired keypads.

"There are often requests from dealers for a network-connected keypad for applications where network drops are readily available," says Brian Crouse, product manager for DMP's Wireless & Keypads.

"This is it, giving you a wide variety of options for fast installs. All you need to do is find your network drop, install and program the keypad to talk to the XR Series panel and you're done."

With this new option, the new 7463 Network Thinline LCD Keypad can send keystrokes to and receive display messages from a network-connected control panel over DMP's encrypted network protocol. Simply plug in one network cable to power the keypad. The keypad also provides a built-in prox reader for arming and disarming.

Aiphone IXG Series IP Video Intercom for multi-tenant, mixed-use buildings

Aiphone, a provider of intercom and security communication products, has introduced its IXG Series IP-based video intercom. The new release is said to be a comprehensive solution providing multitenant and mixed-use building managers with reliable network communication and entry security along with the convenience of a tenant mobile app.

The IXG Series integrates multiple security layers to meet property managers' needs for a single facility or an entire portfolio of mixed-use properties, according to an announcement. The Cloud-based IXG Series Mobile App enables tenants to screen visitors and unlock entries using their smartphones. The app may be used with or without an individual interior station.

Building managers may select to have tenants screen visitors or have all entry requests go directly to a guard station before being transferred to the appropriate suite or apartment. The IXG Series further enhances security with an available elevator control adaptor to ensure visitors access only the floor on which the tenant works or resides.

All entrance, tenant and guard stations include touchscreen displays and enable onboard event recording with a microSD card. Other features and benefits of the IXG Series video intercom are said to include:

• Illuminated touchscreen entrance panel for interface and video display

• Available later in 2020, an available physical video guard station

• Video conferencing between guard sta-

tions.

• Confidence the system is functioning as intended with scheduled or manual health checks of all stations, components and network connections.

• Ease of installation. All stations are Power over Ethernet using standard structured cable (Cat-5/Cat-6)

The IXG Series may be combined with Aiphone's IX Series 2 peer-to-peer video intercom system with its many door, master and sub stations, adapters and modular emergency towers and wall boxes to create broader solutions for large and enterprise-level applications. The IXG Series is compatible with legacy and future IX Series and IX Series 2 products.

ATG Access launches slim and shallow Populus bollard system

The manufacturer of road blockers, bollards and vehicle barriers, ATG Access has launched the latest generation in bridge protection systems, unveiling its Populus Bollard system to a range of customers, security experts and civil engineering specifiers.

This is the second bridge security system the company has brought to market making it the only supplier with multiple systems currently available. This new solution is a short, shallow and slim solution available in the current physical security market, ideal for bridge applications.

The new system, which achieved both the IWA 14 and PAS 68 standards at tests undertaken at the MIRA testing facility in March 2020, was able to arrest a 7.5-tonne vehicle traveling at 48 kph (30 mph) at a 30-degree angle.

Tests were carried out under COVID-19 distancing restrictions demon-

strating the company's commitment to continue developing and innovating throughout the current crisis.

The internationally-recognised tests were designed to simulate the distinctive features of a vehicular attack on a bridge and resulted in minimal penetration damage of under half a metre. Bridge design dictates that vehicular attacks are most likely to be carried out at a shallow angle as a forward moving vehicle leaves the carriageway to mount the pavement at speed.

Due to their unique engineering characteristics, bridges bring specific challenges to security systems such as drainage requirements, expansion joints and depth constraints.

Coupled with the inability to close structures for prolonged installation periods, any bridge security system needs to operate within these parameters while delivering robust

performance. Specifically designed for installation within areas with either no depth available or a challenging substructure, the system requires excavation of just 40mm and is installed without bolting, mechanical fixings or any upstand.

Furthermore, it requires no finishing surface treatment to the highway to conceal the top of the product, meaning it can be installed in any carriageway conditions. This innovative approach protects the integrity of the bridge structure while affording the greatest possible protection to bridge users and bridge parapets from vehicular attack.

The system can accommodate chambers, contours and expansion joints, and is available in a range of aesthetic treatments to blend into heritage and modern settings alike. It has been developed in close collaboration with local authorities, architects and engineers who have come together to establish the principles of the system which have been refined by the ATG Access design team. In development for just three months, scale models of the Populus system have been subjected to a series of simulated tests with data collected at each stage of product development with the aim of eliminating different variables.

SightLogix launches Dual Sensor Analytics for outdoor intruder detection

SightLogix introduces a breakthrough in outdoor security that analyses detected targets from both thermal and visible sensors simultaneously for high detection accuracy and reduced false alarms. Dual Sensor Analytics (DSA) is a major step forward for making a smart video system into a reliable, 24-hour security solution. Two eyes are always better than one, especially when they

can see different things.

Thermal video has long been recognised as an excellent human detector because it sees in the dark and ignores weather, shadows and reflections. At the same time, there are situations during the day where visible video can also detect with high reliability, while offering important scene details to assist analytic decision making.

By comparing the activity of each independent sensor concurrently, DSA detects, rejects and validates thermal and visible activity in real-time, delivering a highly-trusted security result. "Outdoor detection is the pillar on which we built our company," said John Romanowich, President and CEO of SightLogix. "DSA gives our customers what they value most – the best intrusion detection, day and night." Effective immediately, all SightSensor HD dual video cameras ship with DSA technology. Existing SightSensor HDs can be updated to DSA using the latest firmware.

IDIS announces new upgrades added to its cost-free, no license IDIS Center VMS solution

IDIS has further enhanced its IDIS Center VMS, adding new features and functions targeted at small to mid-sized enterprises and multi-site customers. Organisations can build powerful centralised monitoring solutions, quickly and easily, when implementing IDIS Center together with the wide selection of IDIS DirectIP cameras and powerful NVRs. These deliver customer lifecycle savings of 50% or more compared with server-based solutions, thanks to reduced installation time, no upfront or ongoing license fees, easier maintenance, and the industry-beating IDIS Ultimate Warranty.

Important new features now included with the cost-free, license-free IDIS Center VMS include MapVue, an easy-to-use search function that speeds up operator navigation across building layouts and floor plans. Its intuitive interface helps users to view live and play back video streams across multi-camera systems, while maintaining an overview perspective of their facilities' layouts and camera positions. MapVue also provides easy bookmarking, allowing operators to search the recorded data for persons and activity of interest. Bookmarked footage can then be saved in an Excel file, creating a library of video clips.

IDIS Center users can also now benefit from IDIS Instant Meta Filtering (IMF) capabilities without any licensing or maintenance fees when using the new range of IDIS 6000 Series Edge VA (EVA) cameras. IMF speeds up incident investigations from days or hours to mere minutes. It allows operators to easily collate footage and scan hours of recorded video, from multiple streams, to pinpoint the movements and last-known locations of persons or vehicles of interest.

Surveillance configured with IDIS Center at its heart also ensures greater cyber security, because devices mutually authenticate and eliminate the need for passwords to be entered manually. In addition, IDIS For Every Network (FEN) technology lets engineers connect sites to a control room or other centralized monitoring environment with one-click configuration.

IDIS Center gives users all the essential features they need to centrally and locally manage surveillance operations. These include live video and remote playback, real-time notifications of events, panic recordings, device system logs, and authority access set by individuals or groups. Plus, its user-friendly interface is not only appreciated by security operatives but also praised by non-specialists, including teaching staff, healthcare professionals, and store managers who regularly need to access surveillance to investigate incidents quickly and efficiently.

on the NVR with eight full-HD simultaneous streams at 15fps, providing a high-quality experience when viewing live video or searching stored video, according to the company. Local storage can easily be augmented with exacqVision Cloud Drive storage for customers looking to access critical assets from any location.

With versatile mounting options, the G-Series PoE can be wall-mounted with an accessory, or used on a server rack with a rackmount shelf option to offer installation flexibility. The system ships with free IP camera licenses for four or eight PoE ports, as well as unlimited software updates for three years. Johnson Controls says using a single vendor for both hardware and software streamlines everything from purchasing, setup and support to minimize complexities and maximize uptime.

Digital Barriers releases real-time remote fever scanning solution

Digital Barriers, a provider of edge-intelligent surveillance and security technologies, announces the release of a real-time remote fever scanning solution that adds remote monitoring to this capability. Fever scanning cameras help safeguard frontline workers against potential infection.

The addition of Digital Barriers' government-grade remote monitoring enables this to be carried out without the need for close human contact, thereby cutting the risk of transmission. Providing both a thermal and HD optical camera, Digital Barriers' unique EdgeVis Live technology ensures reliable real-time standoff temperature detection and profiling, even in locations with poor bandwidth and network connectivity.

The thermal camera analyses body temperature, a key indicator of the presence of a fever, and sounds an alarm when a specific temperature threshold is exceeded. The solution provides hospitals, primary care clinics, pharmacies, chemists, warehouses, distribution centres and commercial buildings with a highly effective means of quickly identifying staff and customers who show signs of an infection, minimising transmission on-site.

Digital Barriers' products deliver live video streaming over ultra-low bandwidths, including live bodycam, vehicle and safe city solutions. Typically delivering bandwidth savings of more than 50%, the IoT products make wireless video surveillance a reality. The core technology was designed for security and defence but has much wider applications. It includes edge-AI analytics, such as facial recognition and intrusion detection. Existing customers include government and commercial organisations in more than sixty countries.

Johnson Controls launches exacqVision G-Series PoE NVR

Johnson Controls introduces the exacqVision G-Series PoE, a video recording solution that is said to offer the full sophistication of exacqVision VMS on an affordable NVR, without the hassle of wiring cameras to a power supply.

Well-suited for customers with smaller facilities, this compact NVR delivers 15 watts simultaneously on all ports, and up to 30 watts on any port, integrating with a variety of cameras complemented by plug-and-play setup. While its footprint is small, this solution allows live video to be viewed directly

FLIR Ranger HDC MR HD thermal camera

FLIR Systems, Inc. has announced the launch of the FLIR Ranger® HDC MR, a new high-definition mid-range surveillance system. The Ranger HDC MR sets a new standard for surveillance with its ability to detect illegal activities even in degraded weather conditions, utilizing embedded analytics and image processing to reduce the cognitive workload, enabling operators to distinguish quickly between true threats and false alarms.

The FLIR Ranger HDC MR is a high-performance HD thermal imaging system for about the same price as standard resolution systems. Compared to standard systems, Ranger HDC MR can capture a wider array of views with the same target resolution, thanks to its HD imagery. Mission

capability is extended two-fold with a built-in fog filter to see through fog and haze, as well as an optional Merlin ASX turbulence filter to see through heat/air turbulence for more accurate target classification. Ranger HDC MR is also ready to host on-board AI image processing for faster decision-making. Its advanced technology improves reliability while lowering downtime and maintenance with a lifelong core that more than doubles the mean-time between failures of previous models.

"Whether securing borders, ports, facilities or troops, the FLIR Ranger HDC MR delivers a new level of surveillance so operators can act fast against threats," said David Ray, president of the Government & Defense Technologies business at FLIR. "This new system can eliminate days of inefficient surveillance by using on-the-edge technology to see through poor weather conditions, increasing up-time. Our powerful Ranger HDC MR offers customers a cost-effective solution that boosts mission success."

Equipped with a high-definition thermal imager with a 1280 x 720 detector and a 1920 x 1080 HD color TV camera, the Ranger HDC MR is designed for integration with other sensors, making it ideal for counter-unmanned aerial system (C-UAS) applications. The AI-ready HDC MR also includes an industry leading cybersecurity tool that lowers risk by scanning each software release to help ensure the system is protected from cyber-attacks.

long queues.

These Temperature Screening Thermographic Cameras can sense IR radiations (8-14μm) and produce thermal images. Thermal cameras convert IR radiations into gray value, and establish the accurate corresponding relation between gray value and temperature through the temperature measurement algorithm model.

It is well-known that one major symptom of virus infections is temperature caused by fever. Therefore, a thermal camera with high temperature accuracy can detect the elevated skin temperature to make the temperature screening so as to achieve rapid preliminary screening in public areas. Actual core body temperatures should be further confirmed using clinical measurement devices. Under any circumstances, it is highly recommended to use Hikvision's thermographic cameras in accordance with local laws and regulations. It takes only one second for a thermal camera to detect the temperature of each person. Thus, there will be no congestion when passing through the site where temperature needs to be checked as the Thermal camera supports non-contact temperature measurement, from up to around 1 meter away. That reduces the risk of infection coming from physical contact.

Multi-person Detection: It can enable multi-person detection simultaneously

Alarm Notification: In case of any detection the Temperature Screening Thermographic Camera immediately sends alarm notification to notify operators. It also has AI detection to reduce false alarms from other heat sources

Hikvision launches LED display product line

Hikvision has launched a full range of LED displays, providing seamless, high-definition and colourful imaging. Developed and manufactured internally, Hikvision's LED displays offer indoor fine pitch LED, indoor fixed LED, outdoor LED, and transparent LED technologies to cover a wide range of customisation needs.

Hikvision has years of experience in providing monitoring screen displays for surveillance centres, and launching the new LED display product line also marks the entry of Hikvision into the global, commercial digital signage market, and is yet another milestone in the company's continuous expansion from the security field into new business areas.

The new LED displays are designed specifically to meet the growing market demand from enterprise and public safety organisations, advertising companies, and the entertainment industry. The displays were engineered to become the ideal option for monitoring centres, meeting rooms, indoor and outdoor advertising screens, live spectator events, and a host of other scenarios. With outstanding image rendering technology, Hikvision's LED displays bring users true-to-life images and video with exquisite, high-definition, pictures. Equipped with the unique Pix Master image processing technology, the displays offer improved image sharpness, dynamic contrast, saturation, and enhanced clarity from all directions.

Other features include:

Remote control: Users can operate the displays remotely with an easy-to-use multi-function card

One-click colour-temperature mode-switching: Support for one-click switching among multiple colour-temperature modes changes the picture to suit virtually any application

Automatic dehumidification: This feature reduces the rate of malfunctioning lights by 30% on average, effectively lengthening the lifespan of each display

Blue light filtering: With over 90% of blue light converted to low-energy light, viewers will benefit from effective and responsible eye protection.

Additionally, Hikvision's LED displays simplify splicing several screens together due to their standardised structure, which enables easy installation and maintenance and supports common 1080p and 4K resolutions with accurate proportions.

Masks are not a problem for new facial recognition technology

Herta, has recently launched a new version of its facial recognition algorithms that can correctly identify people who wear facial masks. The company had been working on the issue of partial occlusions for some time and, following the worldwide outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID19), development has been accelerated to launch a version of the software that helps provide an accurate identification under these conditions.

Based on deep learning technology, Herta's algorithms provide very high identification rates, especially in identity verification tasks and their reliability is very high, even when people hide a large part of their face. It is important to remember that the most differential part of the human face is in the eye area.

The launch of this software is key to the identification in automatic passenger control systems with documentation, such as border control with the passport. This way it will not be necessary for the person to remove the mask, avoiding possible contagion or long waiting times. Its application, in general, extends to any type of access control or identity verification system.

Herta expects that the impact of this new technology in the market will be very important worldwide and that it will be used massively in environments such as transportation, health, government, events, sports stadiums or in the gaming sector.

Herta specialises in the analysis of crowded environments, which allows to detect and identify multiple subjects at the same time through IP cameras. The company's software is designed to be fully scalable and compatible with any IP camera, becoming an easy-to-use and accessible tool for any business organisation.

Motorola brings facial recognition to VMS

Hikvision has introduced Temperature Screening Thermographic Cameras in India to help the preventive measures at Airport and other transport terminals, schools, hospitals and at places with

French racecourse solves access headaches with Cliq

Racecourse managers at the Hippodrome Côte d'Azur faced the dilemma of how to stop duplicatable mechanical keys jeopardising security for employees and visitors, and how to drastically reduce the time they were wasting in getting locks replaced when someone lost their key. After a period of research and evaluation they selected the Smartair Update on Card wireless access control solution for the complex.

The racecourse's 63-hectare site incorporates tracks used for many equestrian disciplines. Around 30 workers are employed full-time, but during meetings it welcomes up to 1,000 horses and 3,000 participants. Many stay in one of 130 onsite rooms. On race days, grandstands and spectator areas hold up to 11,300.

With the Smartair Update on Card access control solution, they now control and secure access points more ef-ficiently and effectively than with their old key system. Projected long-term cost savings and significant key management workload reduction convinced Hippodrome managers to choose this wireless solution.

Security staff can now encode user credentials directly for convenient access management with the new Smartair Update on Card system. From among Smartair's long menu of compatible RFID technologies, Hippodrome managers chose Iclass. They can delete users or lost cards instantly and collect audit trails when needed. Easy, flexible credential management enables them to program fine-grained, individual access to around 200 doors in six separate structures. "In the long term, Smartair access control is cheaper than keys to manage," confirms Bernard Arnaud, Supervisor for Accommodations at Hippodrome Côte d'Azur.

Tough, durable, battery-powered locking devices are deployed cost-efficiently at different types of opening around the Hippodrome site. During 2018, around 100 rooms and technical areas were equipped with Smartair readers, wireless escutcheons and wireless cylinders. Access to the accommodation building is controlled with a Smartair wall reader. In the past, people who had lost their key had forced their way in by kicking the entrance. Now, a Smartair device secures it.

The access control upgrade continues through 2019 and 2020, in racecourse offices and grandstands. Managers also plan to trial the Smartair Openow app. With Openow, administrators can send virtual "keys" directly to a visitor's smartphone — convenient for racecourse guests arriving late at night.

Car Dealership sees immediate result on perimeter security upgrade

Car dealer P. Christensen had been suffering a number of thefts from their fenced area and decided it was time to ramp up security. They turned to Telesikring, the largest private-owned security company in Denmark, for a perimeter detection solution and they upgraded the dealership's security with a solution using Hikvision surveillance cameras.

Despite existing security measures like electric fences and burglar alarms, the car dealership was still experiencing thefts. Thieves were managing to come up with increasingly imaginative ways to beat the system – like crawling over fences and even digging underneath them.

They stole all sorts of items, including wheels and catalysts from the cars and vans exhibited at the site. These represent quite some value, and the cost of these losses was mounting up. The dealership needed a solution which could work for them in all sorts of weather conditions and in the dead of night – the most vulnerable time. The premises have some quite remote outlying areas, which were also particularly at risk.

Christensens is now monitored using a perimeter detection solution made up of both conventional and thermal cameras. These cameras are connected to a Milestone VMS with analysis software. In turn, this has a direct connection to the Jutland Control Center, a local alarm receiving centre that monitors the property 24/7. Now it's not possible to enter the property outside of opening hours - day or night, without this being registered by the control centre. The information they receive from the analysis software enables them to make an informed decision on their response, for example sending a guard patrol.

Thermal cameras were chosen because of the reliability in all weather conditions. This solution specifically used the thermal network bullet camera (DS-2TD2136-10). Once the thermal camera detects a break-in, it sends an alarm to the ARC and the operator there can use the low-light clarity delivered by the Darkfighter cameras (DS-2CD4B26F-WD-IZS) also present to verify the alarm. These cameras are able to provide excellent images even in the lowest of light levels, making the ideal for remote verification.

Henrik Finn Sanderlund, Quality Manager at P. Christensen, says: "Yes, we are very satisfied! Since the deployment of the system, this has effectively prevented burglary and theft. The solution was deployed on a Thursday and on Friday the solution caught the first break in, effectively preventing it."

Vivotek helps create safer residential environment in Belarus

Vivotek has deployed its IP surveillance cameras in the "New Borovaya" residential project constructed by A-100 Development, one of the largest developers of residential and commercial real estates in Belarus. This deployment has been carried out by long-standing distributor Data Stream DEP, and has successfully put into action the high-quality products and brand value of Vivotek.

On land with a total area of more than 100 hectares, a whole district is being actively developed in line with the most modern European trends of improved urban living environments. Based on the principle of Smart and Social, the "New Borovaya project" is one of the most innovative and upscale developments in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. In order to ensure public safety and protect private property, A-100 Development pays special attention to the security of the huge residential complex.

To meet the demanding requirements of the project, including high-quality imagery, reliable equipment from a global brand, excellent technical characteristics and optimal price, the distributor, Data Stream DEP, recommended Vivotek's IP surveillance solutions. Vivotek's IB8369A and IB8367A bullet-type network cameras were selected for video surveillance of streets, playgrounds and outdoor parking, while the FD8369A-V dome type cameras were chosen for the entrances of residential buildings. A single data transmission network has been built at the facility, which unites all cameras and provides easy-access to any camera.

Having commenced in 2014, development of the "New Borovaya" project will last for 10 years. In the first two quarters, solutions based on Vivotek IP surveillance cameras were implemented, the success of which has led developer A-100 Development to now place Vivotek solutions in its marketing materials and confidently declare the reliability of this brand during both operation and for further cooperation. This decade-long strategic partnership between Vivotek and A-100 Development has been a success and promises other development opportunities for projects together in the future.

Videonetics helps India embark on national smart cities initiative

Vadodara was selected among 100 cities to be developed as a smart city in India, to enhance economic growth, and improve the quality of life of the people by enabling local area development, deploying smart solutions and harnessing technology. The technology selected to support this initiative in Vadodara was developed together with Videonetics using their Unified Video Computing Platform (UVCP).

The Smart Cities Mission is an innovative initiative by the Govt. of India to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people. It aims to achieve this by enabling local development and harnessing technology as a means to

create smart outcomes for citizens.

With a population of approximately 2.39 million, Vadodara is the third largest city of Gujarat, and as such, is compact and crowded, with a vibrant cultural life that draws a lot of traffic. It is vulnerable to situations of overcrowding, road accidents, criminal activity, and natural disasters.

Vadodara Smart City Limited wanted to heighten safety for its citizens and visitors, along with optimising traffic management, without disrupting daily lives. To this end, they sought a state-of-the-art, open platform that could expand in phases, in sync with the city's growth. In

step with Vadodara's expansion plans, discussions had been underway about expanding the city-wide surveillance system. The appointed project team identified the three key elements of the solution.

Firstly, state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Deep Learning (DL) powered intelligent VMS and video analytics to provide continuous viewing and recording, enabling security operators and law enforcement to proactively identify, and effectively respond to, events to mitigate their impact. Specifically, now the law enforcement authorities can automatically detect overcrowding, unattended baggage, and perimeter intrusions, even under the cover of darkness.

Secondly, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system across 15 traffic junctions in Vadodara, to identify suspected / unwanted vehicles and non-standardised number plates, as well as to generate detailed reports on vehicle movements, and much more.

And finally, a command control centre, to provide a bird's eye view to operators, about what is happening across the city. From traffic control to citizen security, operators remain alert and ready. With greater situational awareness, municipality officials are proactively responding to incidents such as garbage overfill, incidents of water-logging, traffic con-

gestion, hazardous debris on roadways, illegal parking, and more.

Under this project, video surveillance was deployed along public ways, in urban passenger transport stations, municipal buildings, traffic junctions, entry and exit connecting roads to the city, and more. To date, Videonetics's solution not only manages over 550 IP cameras throughout the city, but also proactively identifies and effectively responds to events, to mitigate their impact, eventually helping in maintenance of peace in the city, in upholding law and order, and providing better policing services.

As a result, the city now benefits from increased safety and security with 24x7 monitoring of city area; faster crime investigations; traffic police have in-depth knowledge on vehicle count and movement; and, swift action can be taken by on-site traffic police, as they get alerts on traffic congestion, unwanted / hot-listed vehicles, etc. Moreover, Videonetics's solution has also been able to help the police in monitoring celebration of festivals and VIP movement in the city, and building a security net for its citizens. Overall, it has been successful in ensuring safety and security in the city of Vadodara, and has played an important role in becoming a smart and connected city.

Optex Lidar based access control keeps endangered elephants safe

Intelligent Light Detection and Ranging (Lidar) sensors from Optex are at the heart of a new solution that is helping to protect endangered elephants at the Mount Kenya National Park.

Mount Kenya is the second largest mountain in Africa, and the UNESCO listed National Park was established to protect the mountain, which is a water tower for the surrounding area and whose forest reserves and surrounding areas provide refuge for a vast array of wildlife, of which there is a large population of elephants, estimated at around 2,500.

Despite the numbers, the animals are under constant threat from poachers. The changing geography of the region, and the proliferation of agricultural farms, which has also resulted in increased incidences of human-elephant conflict, with the elephants causing damage to the fencing and property that

surround these farms when trying to re-enter the park.

Instarect Limited, a security fencing solutions provider based in Nairobi, was approached by the Mount Kenya Trust – a non-profit organisation running con-

servation projects for the forests and wildlife of Mount Kenya – to design and install a new elephant access control system within the three elephant 'corridors'. The corridors are designed not only to keep the elephants protected but also allow them to re-enter the park safely and securely, without causing any damage to the fencing or farmland. Instarect selected Optex's intelligent RLS-2020 Lidar sensors as an integral part of the project.

In conjunction with new solar powered gates and CCTV cameras that have been installed, the RLS-2020 sensors, with a 20x20m detection range, are being utilised to detect the elephants as they approach and automatically open the gate for them. The sensors have been programmed to only detect elephants and will not open for smaller animals or humans.

When the elephants trigger a gate to be

opened, authorised park rangers are immediately notified via an SMS and are then able to view the CCTV cameras on their phones to check that the whole herd of elephants have re-entered the park safely. The rangers then send an SMS to close the

gate.

Ebrahim Nyali, Security Solutions Designer at Instarect Limited, says the new system is working well: "The elephants are very intelligent and have quickly adapted to these new gates. They have learned to wait for the gates to open for them to re-enter the park and do not try to enter with force."

Masaya Kida, Managing Director of Optex EMEA, says the Redscan RLS-2020 Series provides enhanced detection in even the most challenging environments and easy integration with any video security solution: "These sensors are intentionally designed to create customised detection areas and set a wide range of target sizes. This flexibility allows them to be used for many different and sometimes unusual applications; the elephant detection is a perfect illustration of that. "We are pleased and proud to be chosen to work with Instarect on this important project and that our leading sensor technology is helping to protect the Elephants & reducing human wildlife conflict around the Mount Kenya National Park".

Amthal partners with CSL Group for smart security & fire systems installation

With the introduction of the much publicised 5G networks, alongside the evolution of live chat facilities impacting on the way people stay connected, there is extra pressure to deliver on extra speed and bandwidth, faster operating and more powerful mobiles to enable apps to work much harder and video to become the cornerstone of security.

CSL and Amthal, who have worked in partnership for 15 years, are operating together for customers to ensure the safe delivery of advanced routers, alarms and data embracing all available signaling technologies.

Says Dave Willetts, CSL Head of Key Accounts: "Technology and the way we connect is evolving faster than ever and understanding the key trends, while staying at the forefront of its impact on system design, is critical to all our success,

especially in the fire and security sector."

"Working closely and building relationships with customers such as Amthal is vital. And this is not in a supply chain, but in true partnership. We have both seen significant business growth, operating through some extraordinary circumstances, not least the current pandemic. Through delivering on tailored customer requirements, we can continue to upgrade systems to ensure connectivity standards remain high."

Amthal operates with CSL to ensure connectivity for key CCTV and alarm signaling, allowing for remote upgrade and maintenance of installed products and services. The fire and security specialist is now looking to upgrade with CSL to adopt more live functionality that allows remote monitoring services

through smart mobile app technology.

Jamie Allam, CEO Amthal Fire and Security adds: "For fire and security, we are just on the cusp of seeing the potential of technological advancements and ability to create greater intelligence, faster response systems, visual insights and dedicated data."

"And while the lockdown period has halted many sector operations, as critical workers, it is our duty to continue our operations to keep buildings safe and secure. By working closely with trusted partners as CSL Group, we can bring these ideals together and ensure more powerful devices can be connected to one another, maintained and monitored remotely and efficiently for the benefit of customers across the UK."

AtlasIED UL Certified Speakers for Fire Signaling and Alarms

AtlasIED continues to strengthen its presence and participation in the commercial security and audio-video marketplace

with the introduction of four new UL 1480 certified speakers. The certification permits these speakers to be used in

code-required fire alarm systems (NFPA 72) for fire alarm and signaling.

The certification streamlines for security, AV, and IT contractors the process of bidding on jobs that require speakers used for fire alarm signaling purposes. The certification exempts contractors from having to file for a code variance when installing speakers to be used as part of a fire alarm system. By procuring any of the UL 1480 certified speakers in AtlasIED's TUC line dealers can adhere to code requirements for fire signaling while maintaining highly intelligible, quality audio.

The TUC line includes two environment-resistant, surface-mounted speakers (SM82TUC-WH and SM82TUC-B). Available in black or white, the Strategy Series Surface Mount (SM) Loudspeakers can be configured for 70- or 100-volt installation and distributed sound applications. Full-range frequency response makes the speakers suitable for both outdoor and indoor environments.

Also comprising the UL 1480 certified TUC speaker offering are two in-ceiling coaxial speakers from AtlasIED's Strategy line, the 6.5" FAP63TUC-W and the 4.5" FAP43-TUC-W. Both speakers feature

an improved waveguide design for wider coverage than previous models and a patent-pending Safety-First Mounting System (SFMS), which prevents mounting tab damage during installation and ensure that the speaker is mounted securely.

No tools are required for installation, and multiple speakers can be easily daisy-chained.

"Our new TUC line of UL 1480 certified loudspeakers signifies AtlasIED's ongoing commitment to the commercial security industry as a leading provider of audio products that deliver critical emergency information and alerts," says John Ivey, President

of AtlasIED. "Featuring innovative technologies, these speakers offer security integrators a simple, affordable solution with a proven track record for reliable, intelligible, high-quality audio."

AtlasIED's powerful lineup of commercial audio and security solutions emphasizes functionality and exceptional audio fidelity—important attributes in commercial security environments. Installation ease is a hallmark of the entire product portfolio, offering integrators a solid base to reach markets including corporate, retail, healthcare, educational, and hospitality.

Bosch AVIOTEC IP starlight fire detecting camera

With a new version of its video-based fire detection system AVIOTEC IP starlight 8000, Bosch Building Technologies now enables the early detection of fires with cameras, even in low light conditions. Both flames and smoke are reliably detected down to an ambient lighting level of 2 lux.

For this purpose, Bosch has extended its proven video analytics in the camera by artificial intelligence, which processes the results of more than 20 algorithms and makes an alarm decision on this basis. This leads to a significantly improved sensitivity without compromising the solution's robustness against false alarms.

With the new firmware version 7.61, AVIOTEC IP starlight 8000 is suitable for application in areas with very

low light, such as warehouses and production plants at night. In case of changing environmental conditions, the sensitivity can be adapted to the requirements using programmable schedules. Thus, it is possible to optimize the robustness against false alarms during busy daytime operation, while deserted buildings, where quickest detection is required, benefit from high sensitivity at night.

Since the new solution from Bosch also works reliably with minimal ambient light, it saves costs for planning, installation and operation of lighting. Furthermore, it significantly reduces the risks for applications with high fire load in those low light conditions. This benefits, for example, operators of multi-story car parks where risk is typ-

ically quite high. Here, AVIOTEC IP starlight 8000 guarantees reliable early detection to protect vehicles and electrical charging stations. In historical buildings, the solution can now also be installed in almost unused side rooms with minimal lighting, for example through tiny windows. In all environments, the installed cameras can be used simultaneously for fire detection and video surveillance, which further reduces installation and operating costs. The video-based fire detection AVIOTEC IP starlight 8000 is now delivered with the new firmware. Existing installations can be upgraded to the new technology by a free firmware update.

Research reveals UK industry sectors most vulnerable to cyber-attacks

A new research report reveals how technology decision makers at UK SMEs are prioritising cyber security to ensure business continuity and growth. The report also highlights newer technologies such as robotics and AI that SMEs plan to adopt, how SMEs are using technology to power remote workforces, and what technologies they are adopting for growth. Cyber security features heavily in the report, with respondents revealing attack frequency, cyber strategy status, and employee training to combat hackers.

The vast majority of UK SMEs (81%) confirmed that they had suffered a data breach or cyber-attack, with a considerable two in five (37%) admitting they had suffered multiple breaches. Industry verticals had a significant bearing here, with the healthcare, IT & telecoms, and legal industries topping the list of those suffering multiple attacks.

The top six verticals where respondents had more than one breach, by vertical:

Healthcare

Public sector healthcare providers are particularly susceptible to supply chain attacks that exploit the chain of trust, targeting the valuable personal data which healthcare providers store and process. Suppliers can be seen as more vulnerable and an easier route for attackers to gain access to a more lucrative target. Hospitals store an incredible amount of valuable, confidential patient data which hackers can sell on easily – making any supplier to the industry a target.

IT & Telecoms

Some IT companies may store large amounts of sensitive customer data, while cloud storage and computing service providers, developers of security software, or file-sharing solution providers, are often the targets of supply chain compromise attempts. Direct attacks seek to access the organisation's network operations and data while indirect attacks target subscribers within the telecoms sector. SME suppliers may be a gateway into the network – once inside, cyber criminals can easily access data and intercept calls, as well as control and impersonate subscribers.

Legal

The legal sector is particularly vulnerable to cyber-attacks due to the volume of data, sensitive information, financial responsibility and authority held. If a law firm specialises in corporate or property law, they are at increased risk, as the potential for financial gain is greater. Although the main reason law firms are targeted is for financial gain, there is also a growth in bad actors using cyber-attacks to achieve political, economic or ideological goals.

HR & Recruitment

Payroll fraud, recruitment scams, corporate espionage – cyber-attackers have found numerous routes into organisations via HR. Any identifiable information is valuable to criminals, and payroll and other HR systems are a treasure trove of names, addresses and bank details. If this is compromised, not only can it affect individual employees, it also gives attackers more ammunition with which to increase the likelihood of a successful attack on other parts of the business. Additionally, recruitment agencies are prime targets for malware. If hit by a data breach, employment agreements and sensitive documents such as passport scans and visa details are all left exposed.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector, which includes automotive, electronics, and pharmaceutical companies, has always been a vulnerable sector when it comes to cyber-crime and security breaches. This is because intellectual property is incredibly valuable, and often manufacturing firms rely on highly specific software packages that are difficult to patch against recent exploits, making them highly vulnerable to attack.

Financial

The threats facing organisations working directly and indirectly with the finance sector go far beyond simple theft. Cyber threats facing banks, insurance companies, asset managers and similar organisations range from basic consumer-grade malware all the way up to highly targeted attacks from organised criminals and state-sponsored actors. Financial service providers are a hacker's favourite, given the nature of the private information held by those organisations.

Further cyber trends highlighted in the report:

- The vast majority of SMEs confirmed that they were increasingly worried, with 81% more fearful of a cyber-attack or data breach
- 81% of UK SMEs confirmed that they had suffered a data breach or cyber-attack
- Nearly 1 in 5 (17%) IT decision-makers surveyed have no cyber strategy in place
- 76% agree that they are nervous about moving from an on-premise IT infrastructure to a cloud infrastructure due to fears of data security
- 98% of IT decision-makers in SMEs educate employees about how to identify a cyber threat, with the most popular approach being a combination of external and internal training (32%)
- SMEs in the financial sector were more likely to suffer three or four breaches than any other sector at 50%, while healthcare and IT & Telecoms sectors were most likely to suffer two breaches at 75%.

Colin Dennis, Head of Technical Operations, OGL Computer, said: "Cyber security has been front of mind for SME customers for some time now, as awareness of cyber-risks continues to rise. Proactive management of IT requirements is in many ways connected to this trend, as businesses of all sizes look to compliance requirements as well as asset protection and disaster recovery."

Contactless biometrics more relevant in the time of COVID-19

According to Invixium, a leading global provider of modern biometric solutions, the company noted a significant rise in the demand for touchless biometric solutions even before the Coronavirus pandemic began sweeping the globe. In addition to authentication accuracy, the touchless operation of Invixium's multimodal, multifactor biometric solutions makes them even more relevant today.

"The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic will forever change the landscape of the biometric industry moving forward," said Shiraz Kapadia, CEO & President of Invixium. "Mandates have been issued by governments, enterprises, and owners to cease the use of fingerprint, palm print and hand-key readers, as well as any access control readers or workforce management devices due to amplified concerns related to physical contact with these types of devices."

The need for touchless access control and workforce management biometric solutions is the new reality, which builds a new business case for the deployment of face recognition technology. The substantiation for this conclusion also includes ease-of-use, all-round performance and suitability for different environments. Touchless fingerprint, palm print, and vascular recognition are generally not suitable for outdoor environments, let alone rugged environments such as construction sites or oil and gas refineries. Iris recognition tends to be difficult to use, and iris scanning is invasive. Access control and workforce management devices employing face recognition overcome all of these obstacles.

Invixium's IXM Titan employs powerful face recognition processing technology ensuring superior connectivity, graphics, usability, reliability and battery efficiency. In fact, Titan allows up to four factors of authentication but for true 'touchless' operation, utilise its powerful one-to-many matching capabilities using just face recognition or scale up with dual factor 'touchless' authentication employing card and face recognition as credentials.

Titan's impressive suite of features also includes a 21MP camera for face recognition and video intercom; on-board storage of users and transactions; incredibly fast face and touchless finger authentication; up to 18 face recognition authentications per minute; and WiFi, Bluetooth, NFC, and integrated 3G/LTE cellular connectivity.

Since its market launch in 2018, Titan has been successfully deployed around the globe in a variety of industries including: construction, mining, oil & gas, manufacturing plants, universities, large enterprises, financial, health care and logistics.

Deter would-be thieves with proper security camera placement

The quarantine mandate that was instituted by many states through this pandemic has kept families at home, so you would think that crimes wouldn't be as prevalent given people are forced to stay indoors. However, that doesn't appear to be the case.

New York City is grappling with a sudden surge in crime of late. In fact, there's been a 21.9% increase in burglaries compared to the numbers from over the first three months of the previous year. That's alarming. Se-

curity cameras have proven to be huge deterrents, forcing would-be robbers to second guess their devious acts. Despite this, some are brazen enough to go forward, which is why you should think about proper security camera placement. A well-placed camera will have a great field of view and be located in a place that makes the camera difficult to tamper with.

Facing entrances to the home

Entrances are the first and most important places to strategically position your camera. Porch pirates and potential robbers will be dissuaded from committing crimes because they know they're going to be detected and recorded. However, you don't want to position them at eye level, because that will put them at risk.

The better solution is to hoist them up on a wall, typically at around 9 feet from the ground, so thieves won't be able to access them. If you don't have a porch that would allow for a direct line of sight to the front or rear doors, then consider fastening them at the corners of your home. They'll be high enough and will record any activity at those entrances, without the fear of them being taken down.

Hanging off nearby trees/branches

For this next one, you'll want to invest in a security camera that has substantial protection against the elements and is battery powered. That's because it's unlikely you'll have a power source nearby trees surrounding your home's property. In order to attach them to a tree or branch, you may be required to install an adapter that will allow the security camera to remain fastened to them.

Cameras such as the Blink XT2 and Ring Spotlight Cam come to mind, as they're designed to withstand outdoor weather — while still monitoring your home at safe distances. The Blink XT2, in

fact, is rated with a two-year battery life with its two AA lithium-ion batteries, so you don't have to worry about frequently replacing them. Alternatively, the Ring Spotlight Cam can be hooked up to a solar panel add-on to recharge the camera's battery back.

Arlo Pro 2: What's important here is that the placement will cover a wider area of a home/property, which is especially useful because first-floor windows tend to be of interest. Instead of having a camera facing a single set of windows, positioning it farther out on a tree or branch will cover the entire front side of the home.

If you do use this placement option, however, you should also have a camera near a door in a place that is visible but difficult to access. Security cameras are only useful as a deterrent if would-be criminals can see them. If they can't, they may make an attempt without knowing they are being recorded. While you'll catch the criminal in the act, you'll still have to deal with calling the police, and the criminal may swipe some items before beating a retreat. It's better to prevent your home from becoming a target in the first place.

Corners of interior rooms

Once inside a home, it would be simple for any burglar to snag your indoor security cameras if they're placed on a desk or tabletop. At that point, they're screaming to be taken.

Instead, position them high in the corners of rooms. Not only will your security cameras have a better vantage point, but they'll be perched high enough to thwart easy attempts to steal or disable the camera.

Those concerned about privacy won't be as inclined to potentially risk their privacy, especially considering all the news about security cameras being hacked, but there's

still a workaround. Adjust them so that common areas aren't in plain view — like the middle of your living room or dining area. Instead, position them to focus only on key areas, such as a front or back door, hallways, or major first-floor windows. While the vast majority of indoor cameras come with kits that allow you to attach them to walls, others like the Logi Circle 2 camera have magnets that allow you to place them in some unconventional places as well — like lamps, window blinds, and entertainment centers.

Outdoor play areas

Children require constant supervision. ADT Security recently introduced its new line of 'Blue by ADT' security products and mentioned the importance of cameras to supervise children as people find themselves with less access to daycare. Aiming your security cameras toward outdoor play areas around your home, such as a nearby swing set or jungle gym, would do nicely to provide additional peace of mind. Not only will you be able to oversee your kids' outdoor activities, but security cameras will be able to prompt you via notifications to your phone whenever a motion event is triggered.

Security camera placement: Reach for the sky

You'll notice repetition in these recommendations. The goal is simple and remains consistent both indoors and outdoors. You'll want to place cameras in a location that makes the camera difficult to tamper with. In most cases, that means placing the camera at the highest position possible. Remember that the real goal is deterrence. Criminals need to see your cameras and understand there's no way to move past them without being noticed. That means your camera shouldn't be too hard to see, but it should be difficult to tamper with, and the camera should obviously monitor key access points.

Hikvision intelligent surveillance supports smart mobility

Hikvision has accumulated sophisticated experience in traffic management both at home and abroad. Product lines offer versatile solutions to resolve multitudes of problems in urban traffic management, traffic incident management, highway management, and more. These days the possibilities for traffic video data are endless, especially now that it can employ artificial intelligence for advanced functionality. Harnessing its power will make all the difference, but the ultimate goal remains the same: safe and smooth traffic, smart mobility, and improved quality of human life.

Smart Mobility has been a key theme in the transportation industry for a while. The idea is to keep traffic flowing and help people to get where they need to be, in a smarter way. To this end, industry players are now innovating and introducing advanced technologies and solutions. Examples include intelligent traffic management systems, free-flow tolls, autonomous driving, smart location solutions, and more.

At the same time, traffic congestion, ageing infrastructure, rapid urbanisation, and increasing sustainability demands are also intensifying the need for smart mobility solutions. One way to overcome these obstacles is to use intelligent video surveillance technology for improved traffic management, making the roads safer and more efficient for every user, while also reducing emissions.

Perceptive intersections

Relying on intelligent video analytics, traffic video cameras identify traffic build ups at intersections by counting numbers of vehicles crossing an in-

tersection and detecting their speed, while also counting the number of vehicles queuing in real-time. Aggregated data informs the system when to switch traffic lights to red or green. Intelligent optimization for traffic signals ensures more effective traffic flow. Improved safety on roadways; intersection reconstruction can be avoided; drivers can be advised about the speed of their route, forecasted by traffic signals; reduced wait times and stress for commuters; reduction of harmful emissions; and positive impact on public satisfaction are just some of the benefits.

Road safety

Traffic incidents can be disastrous, not merely for causing congestion on the roads but sometimes far worse – resulting in injuries and even fatalities. These incidents have many causes, not the least of which is drivers willfully violating traffic laws. Video technology can aid in detecting all kinds of events – for example, illegal parking, running a red light, wrong-way driving, speeding, and making illegal U-turns can all be detected by smart camera technology.

By using deep learning technology, cameras can recognise these events and traffic authorities can be immediately notified and take necessary actions even before traffic incidents occur. Scenarios include stopping a driver who is occupying an emergency lane, or notifying a driver who parked their car illegally. Furthermore, ticketing systems can be incorporated to further regulate driving behaviours. Benefits here include incident prevention, better driver performance, and increased safety on the roads and streets, to name just a few.

Public information

Sharing information is key to keeping city drivers and travellers informed. Intelligent communication about warnings and updates helps everyone save time, avoid frustration, and simplify everyday mobility. This can be done via an app or via traffic guidance screens displayed at highly visible locations, such as congested areas, transportation hubs, shopping malls, and city plazas.

Traffic video cameras generate real-time data of traffic flow and incidents, sending it to a central platform to further fuse with data from third-party systems such as radar and GPS systems. They also disseminate traffic information, including traffic status, warning and advisory notices, as well as parking status. The benefits are improved public awareness of traffic information, improved travel convenience, overall enhancement of mobility in the city, and more.

No single solution fits all

Going deeper, it's essential to note that efficient signal control management is dependent on the quality of traffic data, system algorithms, and the hardware devices in use; it is also closely related to the mobile environment, such as road conditions, historical traffic conditions, and urban infrastructure. Because of this, no single solution solves traffic congestion everywhere. Hikvision believes that only by working closely with city authorities, public safety organisations, consultants, even academia and other relevant stakeholders, can applications and operational processes be developed to achieve the best possible outcomes.

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