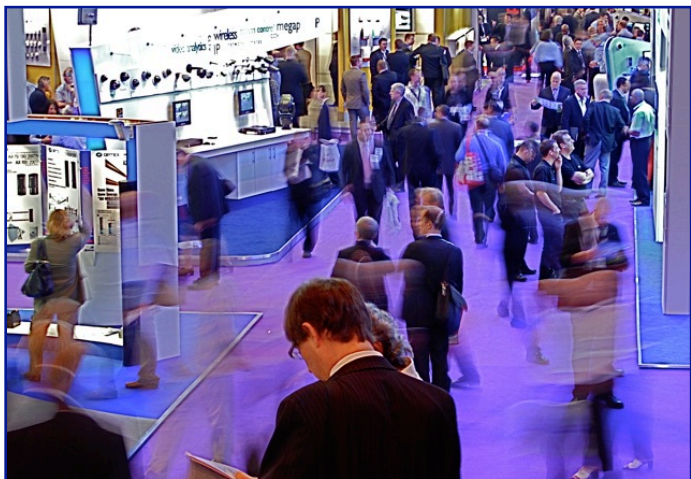# Doktor Jon's
CCTV & IP Video Surveillance

IFSEC 2009
- Show Review -

It came, it went ... and we survived !! IFSEC 2009 may be the UK Security Industry's annual not-to-be-missed event, but with many hundreds of CCTV and IP Video related exhibitors, and tens of thousands of tech savvy visitors, this years show provided an ideal opportunity to find out how most businesses are coping with the challenges of our current economic climate. Lot's to report, so without further ado, here's the Dok's lowdown on some of the high points, key stories and general news from the halls.

The word on the streets ... or around the aisles!

If you take a minute or two to watch the IFSEC world go by, it's quite amazing to see how for every visitor engrossed in reading through their show catalogue, there are literally dozens more dashing around on their way to the next crucial meeting. That aside, the general consensus amongst many exhibitors appeared to be that whilst the actual footfall may have been noticeably down this year, the perceived quality of visitors was most definitely well up. Typical of the comments received, Stephen Marsh, Sales and Marketing Co-ordinator from Dallmeier electronic UK Ltd. said "Attendance may have been down slightly, but quality of enquiries has been excellent; overall it's superseded our expectations".

So what were the talking points at this years event ...?

It's often difficult to decide whether it's more interesting talking to the exhibitors or the visitors, but I think on balance, this year the exhibitors have won the day. Given the current economic gloom, many could be forgiven for expecting the worse, and yet somewhat encouragingly, most companies were extremely positive and enthusiastic, even up to the last day when traditionally, show weary sales staff can easily be forgiven for giving up the will to live.

As you might expect, there were more DVR's on show than there are parking spaces at the NEC, but that aside, there were a few new models well worth a look. Likewise with cameras, where a number of specialist new models attracted a fair degree of attention; but overall, apart from video analytics, ANPR, and some useful IP Video kit, many discussions tended towards 'standards' and the urgent need for them, along with a recurring buzzword ... 'education'; and a much welcomed realisation that the video surveillance industry needs to take steps to help customers "get it right", rather than just simply taking the route of producing pictures that in the great scheme of things, may not actually be fit for purpose.

VIPER 2009
VIDEO IMAGE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT

'VIPER' CCTV Performance Evaluation Reports
www.doktorjon.co.uk/cctvimage.html

TRUSTED 2009
Target Recognition Using Surveillance Technology for Evidence & Detection "CCTV as it should be!"

DJ's unique 'TRUSTED' CCTV Improvement project
www.doktorjon.co.uk/trusted%20campaign/trusted1.html

Doktor Jons
Closed Circuit Television CCTV & IP Video Forum

DJ's CCTV / IP Video Forum
www.doktorjonsforum.co.uk

As for the quietly reflective chap spotted on the SeeTec stand (photo-above), after four days of wandering around the halls at the NEC, I can honestly say I now know exactly how he feels!!
Read on for DJ's selection of IFSEC 2009 CCTV and IP Video highlights ...

IFSEC2009
11 - 14 May 2009
NEC Birmingham
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LET'S TALK SECURITY

And the award goes to ....

Well in the case of the IFSEC Security Industry Awards 2009, the "CCTV product of the Year" accolade went to Sanyo Europe Ltd., for their VCC-HD4000P high resolution camera.

Built around a 4 MegaPixel high resolution imager, offering full 1080p HD performance at 25ips, the camera includes built in SD Card recording, or external dockable HDD option, and an integral 10:1 zoom lens as standard. Commenting on their success, Doug Gwilliams (photo-left), Corporate Account Manager - CCTV, Sanyo Europe Ltd. said "The Show's been good for us; winning the "Product of the Year" award, it's nice to be recognised as a leading edge manufacturer"

Click here to see a complete list of the IFSEC 2009 Security Industry Award winners ...

Also recognised with the "Integrated Security Product of the Year" award, Dedicated Micros snatched the prize for their new 'Emergency Messaging and Mass Notification System'. More from them and AD Group, later in this IFSEC 2009 Show Review ...

"We were expecting a reduced number of visitors, but we are pleasantly surprised by the quality of the enquiries ... overall we're happy" ...
Ely Maspero, Director of Marketing & Communications EMEA, March Networks

Putting a face in the frame ....

As development of the UK's National CCTV Strategy continues apace, there were plenty of private discussions taking place about the urgent need for workable standards.

Industry led initiatives like those from ONVIF and the BSIA, are rightly gathering support at one end of the industry, whilst more fundamental issues such as ways to measure or evaluate system performance, have to some degree been addressed by at least two exhibitors at the show.

On the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) stand, Dr Neil Cohen (photo-right) was demonstrating their latest approach to "System Based CCTV Testing". In what is in effect a significant step up from the established "Rotakin" test target, the newly developed charts provide system operators,

installers, consultants and engineers with a range of practical tools, capable of referencing the performance of CCTV imaging systems, against a number of standardised test targets.

Also present was the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), providing some welcome updates on the current state of play with the National CCTV Strategy's various development and delivery Boards. With the huge amount of work still to do, it's very evident that manufacturers and industry representatives alike, could indeed provide some very useful support, to help drive this vital initiative forward.

Tucked away on the Tavcom Training stand, Director Paul Tennent (photo-left) was keen to introduce NORMAN to passing visitors (he's the dummy on the right!). Designed as a standalone human sized test target, the "National Operational Requirements Mannequin" is intended to provide a number of standardised tests to help evaluate the performance of CCTV imaging systems.

Video Analytics ... it's all clever stuff!

When it comes to finding out what's really happening in the world of Video Analytics, you'd be well advised to have a quick chat with Dr. Rustom Kanga (photo-right), CEO of iOmniscient. As a leading specialist in high end VA systems, Rustom was happy to discuss no less than six of his new innovations being debuted at the show, including individual facial recognition in crowds, multiple target tracking & identification, and a comprehensive new book on the subject, entitled "Automated Surveillance, A Guide to Intelligent Video Analysis".

Peter Houlis (photo-left), Managing Director of 2020 Vision Systems Ltd., insisted on having his very own copy personally autographed by the lead author.

Who says you can't have functionality with style ... ?

Leading Italian CCTV equipment manufacturer Videotec S.p.A., were demonstrating the latest version of their Ulisse family of high performance remote positioning camera units. The recently launched Ulisse Compact offers a very tidy and stylish camera package, complete with three zoom lens options (10:1, 18:1, 36:1), horizontal resolutions up to 530 lines, privacy masking, and extended low light performance with built in frame integration as standard.

Power to the people ...

When it comes to solving everyday IP Video network related problems, specialist manufacturer Veracity can always be relied upon to come up with something just a little bit different. Setting up PoE network cameras can be challenging to put it mildly, so the launch of their new PINPOINT device provides a very neat local break out solution, allowing installers to connect a laptop or PDA to view the image coming directly from the camera.

Also new at the show, the OUTREACH PLUS offers the new 'PoE Plus' standard to power network devices up to 25 Watts, and the OUTREACH Quad extends PoE operation to four IP Video cameras, over 200 metres.

Commenting on the show, Alastair McCleod (photo-left) MD, Veracity UK Ltd., said "Although the number of visitors is slightly down on previous years, the quality of enquiries is very strong. We're happy with the show and have already booked for next year".

Putting on a good display

US manufacturer Jupiter were demonstrating their innovative new PixelNet network display solution, which is designed to provide a completely modular approach to building a flexible and expandable network display system.

The individual PixelNet units offer a range of input and output options, combining graphics and data from various sources, and allowing almost unlimited possibilities in terms of displaying real time images in user definable formats. on a variety of large screen display devices.

Photo right - Alain Cayrel, Regional Manager EMEA Jupiter, holding a PixelNet Series 400 device.

- Two recently launched websites well worth a look -
Manufacturer - March Networks and the UK's National CCTV Strategy

It's been a busy week for the AD Group

IFSEC just wouldn't be IFSEC without a number of important statements from Dedicated Micros and it's parent AD Group, and this year was certainly no different.

Along with the announcements of a new DM EcoSense entry level DVR, a mid range hybrid SD Advanced DVR, and the CamVu HyperD camera, the star product launch was almost certainly the Integrated Camera Recorder (ICR). Based on either a conventional IP Video or MegaPixel configuration, the camera incorporates an on board SD based record device, with the option of a fully featured localised "edge of network" hard drive record, backup facility.

Commenting on the launch of the ICR, Pauline Norstrum (photo - middle) Director of Worldwide Marketing DM, said "We believe that there is a powerful case ... for a decentralised approach based around an IP camera which actually pulls together all of the key elements of effective CCTV in one single unit ... unlike centralised NVR based solutions - recording can actually be maintained regardless of the status of the IP network". On hand to answer questions, Mike Newton (photo-left) CEO of AD Group enthusiastically explained the benefits of the "Distributed Video over IP" (DVIP) approach which, as a simple solution that is not network dependent, will undoubtedly grow in popularity as it becomes more widely understood.

Photo of ICR camera and EcoSense DVR © DM 2009 >>>

Looking forward to a greater degree of integrated enterprise level security and safety solutions, the launch of a new AD Network Video service was also announced, led by industry veteran Alan Lefford (photo-right) - "Being asked to head up this group is a privilege" Alan said. Commenting on his appointment, Mike Newton noted that "When it comes to CCTV, there isn't much that Alan hasn't experienced in his long and illustrious career". The new operation will concentrate on large scale enterprise level projects, that can leverage the benefits of integrated NetVu connectivity.

To help support the launch of AD Network Video, a new purpose built demonstration facility will also shortly be opened for business in Bicester, Oxfordshire, UK.

It's also been revealed that the AD mobile division has now been established to take specific responsibility for all aspects of sales and technical support for the Queens Award winning TransVu products. Already widely used throughout the UK, with over 14,000 TransVu mobile units having been supplied to date, the key benefits of video recorded alongside data and telemetry information, offers enormous potential for vehicle operators concerned about their daily fleet management.

It isn't just vehicle operators that can benefit from mobile CCTV, in fact Traffic Safety Systems (TSS), another specialist part of the AD Group, is at the forefront when it comes to building high visibility, rapid deployment surveillance vehicles. Already widely used by both local authorities and police forces, the vehicle on show had been fitted with a number of covert pinhole lens cameras, to demonstrate the potential for capturing incident's of Anti Social Behaviour at close range.

Commenting on the event, Julian Cooke (photo-right) International Sales Manager for TSS, said " ... shows gone very well. International attendance surpassed my expectation ... quality and quantity has been excellent".

"We've been active and busy, with more enquiries than in previous years" ...
Paul Wong, MD - Bosch Security Systems Ltd.

Vehicle identification served up on a plate

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems appeared to be even more prevalent at this years show, and one of the leading exhibitors was City Sync Ltd.. Using the event to launch their latest JellyBean twin lens vehicle mount camera, the unit is designed for use in a variety of situations, including roof mounting on operational police vehicles. The device contains a dedicated infra red plate reading camera that can resolve fast moving vehicles at distances of up to 18 metres, whilst a secondary high resolution colour imager is used to provide a wide view contextual image, for broader evidential purposes.

Also being demonstrated was the new JetCam Fox-i device which combines both camera and on board processing, to provide a fully functioning ANPR unit, capable of transmitting processed plate reads via either hard wired or wireless networks, or 3G cellular links. Steve Townsend (photo-left), City Sync's Business Development Manager advised that under normal operating conditions, the cameras would be expected to capture perhaps 95% of vehicle plates, reading at an accuracy of around 98%.

Dark light for a dark night, the black art of Infra Red

Night surveillance using conventional CCD cameras, is almost always reliant on additional lighting, and for specialist manufacturer Raytec, IFSEC provided the ideal platform for demonstrating their comprehensive range of solid state Infra Red and White Light illuminators.

New for 2009, the latest Warrior II ATEX approved explosion protected IR lamps were being shown alongside the comprehensive FUSION range of illuminators incorporating unique "Command and Control" technology. Available as either white light output or Infra Red at frequencies of 850 or 940nm, the units are offered in various configurations, capable of illuminating at distances up to 150 metres away ... subject of course to camera sensitivity.

Also on display, PowerBlade units designed to be driven directly from 240v mains supply's, using a built in step down power supply.

Shaun Cutler (photo-right) Managing Director of Raytec, was keen to explain the green philosophy behind their solid state illuminators, which with their much higher efficiency, require only a fraction of the power normally needed for conventional hot filament lamps.

Open standards and 3rd party integration, it's the way ahead

Canadian MegaPixel camera specialist Avigilon have recently announced that their latest version "Control Centre 4.0" high definition surveillance management software, has been upgraded to support third party IP cameras from Panasonic, Axis and Sony.

Along with their high end camera models, the software will also allow full integration of analogue encoders, offering support for native compression h.264, MPEG-4 or M-JPEG.

Having recently joined the Open Network Video Interface Forum (ONVIF), the company has committed to providing an open enterprise class high definition network video management platform, that allows users to easily capture, manage and store their surveillance video, from a range of sources.

Kim Langstrom (photo-left) Avigilon's EMEA Managing Director, was also keen to demonstrate their latest auto iris day/night 2 MegaPixel HD dome camera with built in IR illumination.

Cameras in the mist ... a vision of things to come

Despite their best efforts to drown a C-AllView remote control camera in a tank of water, the good folk at CBC (Europe) Ltd., were clearly having a very busy show, with the latest examples of night vision, thermal imaging and 'radar vision' cameras, all attracting their fair share of attention.

Of particular interest, was a demonstration of a new "mist" camera, which given some clever on-board processing, allows a CCTV camera to see through mist and general atmospheric obscuration (that's one word I won't be using again in a hurry!!). The recordings made with a prototype unit certainly demonstrated a significant improvement in picture clarity, in conditions that would otherwise compromise a conventional model.

On hand to explain the finer points of the equipment on show, CBC's National Sales & Marketing Manager John Downie (photo-left), and Marketing Coordinator Rina Patel (photo-right)

Some very good things come in small packages

When it comes to spotting beautifully constructed cameras, it's probably fair to say that size isn't always everything. That's certainly true for the Watec range of miniature high performance cameras, which despite having been on the scene for over 20 years, were actually new to IFSEC 2009. Available in a wide range of specifications in both colour and black & white, the tiny but fully formed 'box' cameras accept standard CS mount lenses, thus providing an ideal imaging system particularly for covert operations.

Jason Williams (photo-right) Vice President of Sales and Marketing from Watec Inc. was happy to explain the features of the latest WAT 902H2 'Ultimate' super sensitive 1/2" monochrome CCD camera, which weighs in at muscle ripping 98 grams. Fortunately the 530 lines resolution WAT 1000 fully spec'd Day / Night camera is equally modest in stature, despite a performance that puts many a big brother rival to shame.

You know the name, but do you know the cameras?

When it comes to producing electronic imaging equipment, there are few manufacturers with a reputation quite as solid as Canon's, but as a relatively new entrant to the UK market, their range of IP Video network cameras may still be relatively unknown to the broader industry.

A wide range of integrated models were on show, boasting a host of advanced features including image stabilisation, motion detection and auto subject tracking, triggered e-mail upload of captured images, and of course a number of innovative lens options boasting Canon's legendary optical quality.

Richard Shepherd (photo-left) European Products Specialist from Canon (UK) Ltd., is shown with the VB-C60 network camera fitted with a 40:1 optical zoom and electronic image stabilisation. Commenting on the show, Richard said that IFSEC 2009 was "one of the best shows we've done this year".

Running alongside the main show, there was also a busy conference programme to get through. According to Chris Clarke the Conference Producer "This year's IFSEC Conference was a huge success, with three themed days focussing on Global National and Local Protection, Corporate Security Management and finally Technological Innovation in Practice. The final day especially had exceptional content looking at the investment and complexities of IP, Interoperability and the development of Video Analytics".

IFSEC
conference
11–13 May 2009 - NEC Birmingham

Moving against crime, with redeployable cameras

Dotted around the halls were a few examples of conventional "redeployable" camera systems, but the latest offering from Stryker Communications Ltd., claims to offer a low cost approach in what is quite obviously a less than standard package.

Boasting a vandal resistant IP68 weather resistant casing, the unit has two cameras fitted as standard, with a built in fully featured Digital Video Recorder offering 320Gb storage (> 1Tb available), WiFi and broadband accessibility, and the option of 3G or Mesh connectivity where required. With a flexible specification, endless options and mains or 12v DC power facilities, the unit could provide a very useful rapid deployment solution to a range of everyday crime reduction problems.

So what exactly was the best of the rest at IFSEC 2009 ...?

Well as you can imagine, with over 600 stands to visit the majority of which were exhibiting CCTV and IP Video equipment, it's just not possible to see them all and remain standing after four days pounding the halls. That said, here's a few more items which caught the Dok's eye ... on the Mitsubishi Electric stand, an impressive range of slimline thin bezel large panel displays, available in a range of sizes from 50" > 80" which would be ideal for use in control rooms. Specialist manufacturer IQinVision were highlighting no less than ten new products that have been launched since the last show; of particular interest was the IQeye 4 Series dome camera, which is available in a range of resolutions up to 2 MegaPixel. ACTi Corporation were highlighting their new "ACE" certified education course, designed to provide relevant training on the key concepts of IP surveillance. JVC Professional Europe were exhibiting their new "eco-friendly" VN-V685U Day / Night dome camera, which uniquely offers full PTZ functionality and Power over Ethernet (PoE) as standard. Also look out for the JVC demonstration truck tour, which is coming to the U.K. during the summer. IndigoVision were also showing their newest model 10000 Hi Definition IP cameras, and a new 9000 series h.264 based PTZ dome camera. As expected, Dallmeier electronic were displaying their extremely stylish range of IP Video solutions, also known as "a tribute to Amadeus", alongside the Domera series of 3rd party compatible PTZ Dome cameras. Tucked away at the back of the show, Myutron Inc.

were demonstrating an interesting range of camera lenses, including a monster 30-1000mm motorised zoom lens with ED optics, which provides a stunning 125x magnification on a 1/3" camera. Although there is always room for improvements, overall this was one of the best security shows in years, with lots of interesting things to see and do ... unfortunately, the daily queue for the car park pay stations (photo-right) was not one of the highlights, and in the great scheme of things, a completely avoidable waste of time that just shouldn't happen. Let's just hope that by next year, somebody at the NEC may have discovered the radical concept of pre-payment parking vouchers. Here's to the next show ... !!

Want more news about CCTV & IP Video? - why not visit Doktor Jon's website

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