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Award-Winning IPVideoCenter used for Crime Fighting in Thames Valley Police

Keeping crime under control has always been a difficult challenge, but recently, Thames Valley Police (TVP) added a system to give them a new and distinct advantage. By integrating an award-winning CCTV management solution from CNL, as part of their two new Police Command and Control Rooms, visual verification can be obtained direct to their operator desks from any one of the 1100 cameras that monitor the 25 towns and cities in the TVP region.

Through centralisation, TVP now have just two Control Rooms (CRs) managing their entire command and control response throughout its three counties. Control Room staff are now able to visually assess evolving incidents from city centres, remote towns and villages by instantly viewing CCTV images from any of the eleven CCTV centres around the region. This will substantially assist the operators in directing resources as well as being visually able to monitor situations.

Following the centralisation plans, MSC Security Consultancy were engaged as specialist CCTV consultants to explore suitable technologies that would allow live video to be connected from the CCTV centres to operator positions in the Control Rooms. ISDN was investigated as a possibility but an initial trial demonstrated a number of weaknesses and variable costs and reliability. IP Video was then considered and seemed to have great potential, with better quality of service and it was found to be the least expensive; it was also at a time when TVP were upgrading their force wide LAN network and was opportune to investigate the possibility of such use. MSC brought the problem to Computer Network Limited (CNL) who devised an adaptation of their IPVideoCenter Software (IPVC) as a bespoke solution for TVP.

CEDRIC (CCTV Equipment Direct Relay to CSMS) uses IPVideoCenter technology from CNL (winner of 'Best Software Product' at the IP Security Awards 2004) to control and distribute video from each and any of eleven CCTV centres to either of the two Control Rooms. This innovative IP based



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solution connects analogue CCTV images, direct to TFT computer screens in a 'pop-up' window of the police staff controlling any incident in order ensure an appropriate, co-ordinated police response. These high quality images are shown through integration with TVP's command and control software and utilises an advanced .Net infrastructure to make it infinity scalable. CEDRIC software controls the use of the available bandwidth and not only meets the current requirements of TVP, but can incorporate future demands for expansion of any additional IP attached devices.

When an incident is identified or reported, the CCTV operators can select the appropriate camera and by using CEDRIC, transmit those images to the Control Room; enabling them to see the people involved, often witnessing events as they unfold. This can also help the police as when they arrive on the scene, the Control Room Operators and Incident Managers can identify the people involved and the situation can be dealt with more immediately. In order to comply with the Data Protection Act, control over the CCTV images is retained by the local CCTV managers.

Additional benefits to TVP come in the form that the images can be simultaneously viewed via the internet in Gold Suites at HQ, Silver Suites at Area level, as well as at individual police stations across the region. This exceptional flexibility means that more authorised users are able to monitor developing situations and provide resources as required.

Following the success of this project, TVP are intending to integrate video from helicopter cameras, Motorway Monitoring Units, plus the management and monitoring of access control points. CEDRIC is part of TVP's answer to using up to date technology to improve the benefits of the CCTV cameras in and around their region.

For information regarding digital surveillance solutions please contact Angela Harker on 01483 48 00 88 or visit our website www.cnluk.com for information and solution examples. For further details and a free evaluation of IPVideoCenter please visit www.IPVideoCenter.com.

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For further information please contact Angela Harker, Sales and Marketing Executive at Computer Network Limited on 01483 48 00 88, or email info@cnluk.com. Website www.cnluk.com & www.IPVideoCenter.com

EDITORS NOTES

Computer Network Ltd

Computer Network Limited is a systems integrator and provider of digital surveillance solutions. The use of existing infrastructure to deliver the benefits of remote, overt and covert surveillance, plus the facility for integration of other security applications, through the corporate network architecture, promotes security and offers increased protection for people and property.

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Thames Valley Police

Thames Valley Police is the largest non-metropolitan police force in the UK. Our aim is to reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime and be the leading caring, professional police service.

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MSC Security Consultancy

We are former UK police officers, trained in modern crime reduction techniques, now specialising in CCTV systems and design.

The principal, Derek Maltby, currently sits on the UK CCTV Standards Advisory Board (since its inception in 1997) an organisation that advises and promotes good practice on Data Protection issues, quality assurance, cost effectiveness and proportionality of CCTV systems.

Derek has extensive CCTV design and project management experience within the industry including such clients as West Oxfordshire District Council, Bristol City Council, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Cherwell District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, South Bucks District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, The



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Vale of White Horse District Council, BT, Universal Music, Greene King, Wiltshire Shared Services NHS Consortium, Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Initiative etc. He has recently designed with Thames Valley Police, a £500,000 CCTV system for Bridgetown for the Government of Barbados which is shortly to be implemented.

We pride ourselves on providing a bespoke personal service to the client, with attention to detail with accurate cost assessments and feasibility studies to assist with expansion of existing town centre CCTV systems and ensuring best value for money.

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