

# Cutting Edge

## Fair cop by video in remote areas

Paul Broekhuysen

A NEW service that allows video to be transmitted over the GSM mobile phone network will be unveiled at NetWorld+Interop.

Called Shawley Open Circuit Television (OCTV), it's meant for police and security forces monitoring remote locations.

The Paalink Group, which is the local distributor, will demonstrate OCTV at Stand 95A.

OCTV was developed in collaboration with the UK police forces. The manufacturers claim it provides "evidential-standard" video quality.

Unique tagging and encryption systems ensure that critical images are protected, and can be tracked down.

"OCTV is the ideal choice for surveillance and remote site and process monitoring," Paalink director Craig Martyn says.

"OCTV exploits the latest video technology and transmits across the GSM network — which means you're liberated from the costs and constraints of dedicated cabling.

"This makes it an ideal solution for Australian conditions where long distances can create considerable cabling expenses."

Remote operators can tilt, pan and zoom surveillance cameras, or shift them to 100 predefined positions.

"By utilising the existing public phone network, the system circumvents all the expensive parts of a traditional OCTV



**Evidential standard:** Surveillance cameras can now transmit over mobile phone networks

system — installation, manpower, wiring, 24-hour monitoring and transmission licences," Martyn says.

Australia's GSM system now operates at the relatively narrow bandwidth of 9kpbs but Shawley's OCTV gets around this limitation through operator training, the careful setting of pre-sets, and high quality images recorded at the local camera.

In any case it is expected that the mobile phone system will soon migrate to much wider bandwidths, allowing the quick transmission of images.

The UK Home Office's Police Scientific Development Branch recently put the OCTV through a two-month trial.

In one instance the service helped to

identify a shoplifter; in another, the images it provided were used to prove a group of people had no involvement in a mysterious death.

Martyn says the trial was a success, and he expects a lot of interest from police, neighbourhood watch schemes, councils and other organisations in the UK — as well as Australia.

Paalink specialises in advanced telecommunications access solutions.

It also distributes RAD data communications and BreezeCOM wireless access technologies in Australia.

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