

security

electronics

\$5.50 (inc. GST)
MARCH 2001

Magazine

ALARMS • IT • ACCESS • CCTV

Access Control Solutions

Coaxial cable and connections

Digital surveillance solution

Choosing reader types

Networking access system

Test alarm circuit current drain

Interfacing access control

ISSN 1444-2647



9 771444 264006

PP 255003/03820

*Security Electronics 2001
pre-registration card inside*

UK police scientific branch gives OCTV the nod

So far no one's picked up on the potential of open circuit television systems in Australia. They will soon. With increased bandwidth and major improvement in coverage there's now a viable alternative to copper comms.

ON February 1, 2001, the UK Home Office through the Police Scientific Development Branch announced the result of its 2 month trial of Shawley's OCTV system that utilises the latest video over mobile phone technology to transmit CCTV pictures, with full telemetry control, anywhere in the world.

The PSDB meeting, held at King's Lynn, approved the results of 2 detailed and extensive reports by police precincts at Northumbria and King's Lynn, both of whom have had the GSM CCTV system on trial since November 2000. The meeting unanimously confirmed the positive aspects of the system. Developed in collaboration with the UK police forces the system is designed to provide 'evidential video quality' with full traceability and security of images using unique tagging and encryption systems.

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, but still benefit from monitoring, transmission and telemetry control. Not only is OCTV a much enhanced local recording CCTV system, it has the added benefits of dialling in over the existing GSM network for remote monitoring, interrogation, camera control (pan, tilt and zoom), downloading images and moving the camera to over 100

predefined presets.

Although limited by the narrow bandwidths of the current GSM system (9kbps) - it's the same in Australia - Shawley's OCTV was able to meet the terms within which the system was being evaluated to allow the tracking of individuals over the narrow band GSM network, with high quality images recorded at the camera. It was accepted, however, that the present limitations of the system over GSM would not exist in the near future as much faster bandwidth mobile phone networks were made available.

In the UK, Orange has already launched High Speed Circuit Switch Data (HSCSD) providing 28-64kbps transmission rates on one single SIM card with minimal premium on the call charge, while British Telecom released last summer their General Packet Radio System (GPRS) that will eventually also provide 64kbps.

As we've reported before, Telstra, Vodafone, Optus and others are announcing local GPRS, their so-called 2.5 mobile networks and we'll arrive at UMTS (Universal Mobile Telephony Systems) at 384kb/s in a few years time. Although not part of the official trial, Northumbria Police in the UK, also trialed one of Shawley's HSCSD 2.5G cameras over the Orange network and reported back much faster telemetry control and video camera frame rates.

The PSDB indicated at the meeting



last month that several systems were likely to be approved for full implementation in the UK and their findings pave the way for similar use in Australia. Since price, flexibility and rapid remote deployment are important criteria in the selection process, this paves the way for a mass-market application of OCTV wherever there are key issues either collectively or singularly.

The work was further corroborated by anecdotal evidence reported during the trials. In Northumbria useful evidence of a shoplifter had been captured by the OCTV system providing the police with valuable information that helped to identify the individual, while in King's Lynn there has been a rise in crime at Walpole after the system was taken down at the end of the trial period.

This follows an earlier incident at British Waterway's Bridgewater Docks remote site some 150 miles away from their Abergavenny offices. The docks were being monitored by OCTV and the camera captured the death of a young individual by accidental drowning and provided sufficient evidential information to the local police to clear those nearby of wrongdoing.

Looking ahead, companies such as Lucent Technologies (owners of AT&Bell Labs) are already offering video for 2.5G (GPRS) and third generation (3G) mobile networks. ■