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New 'National CCTV Board' announced at MSC Seminar

Global MSC Security in partnership with Safe Newcastle and supported by the Government Office for the North East (GONE) hosted a seminar in Newcastle on Tuesday 25th November. With the theme as 'The National CCTV Strategy – Where Are We One Year On', MSC welcomed Garry Parkins, now National CCTV Consultant with the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) as the keynote speaker. Delegates were the first to hear publicly of recent developments linked to the recommendations from the National CCTV Strategy.

Announcing that the government are to establish a 'National CCTV Board' [a working title], Garry Parkins said, "Progress has taken a significant leap forward in the last few days. The NPIA have agreed to the funding of £500,000 per year to provide the Project Management and Technical expertise to turn the Strategy into a development and delivery Programme". Addressing the House of Lords Select Committee last week, the Minister for Policing, Vernon Coaker confirmed that the recommendation to implement a national body for CCTV registration and standards will be implemented. It will be on a voluntary basis initially, resisting the need for wider regulation, but not ruling out legislation if necessary. Garry Parkins will act on behalf of the strategy's Programme Board.

In his announcement Garry added: "The aims of the 'National CCTV Board' would be to create a mechanism for all CCTV systems to register core information and meet approved standards. This would be achieved through collating existing standards; identifying the gaps and creating new standards where necessary". He stressed there was no intention to create a national image database and that control of image data was for individual CCTV systems.

A phase of consultation with the CCTV industry and end-users was critical to forming a framework for national registration and standards. The announcement at Newcastle was the first step in the NPIA communication strategy for this initiative. Garry Parkins stated that he was required to report to Ministers by end of March 2009 and implementation is to be 'sooner rather than later'.

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Members of the new 'National CCTV Board', accountable to the Home Office, are likely to include many already working on the Programme Board. Sub-Groups are being formed to move a range of other recommendations forward. A Board Progress Report to government is required by the Christmas recess.

Derek Maltby, Managing Director at Global MSC Security commented: "We are delighted that Garry is able to announce such an important step forward on the national CCTV agenda. Given the volume of CCTV in the UK and recognition as a world leader on its use, it is significant that core system information and operational standards are to have national focus and status".

Paul Angus, Community Safety Officer (CCTV) for Safe Newcastle said: "CCTV plays an important part in our strategy and operations to provide a safer environment in Newcastle and we welcome the NPIA announcement. It's great the seminar provided a timely opportunity to engage with end-user delegates on this issue".

Delegates attending the one-day seminar had a presentation on the police use of CCTV from Chief Inspector Bob Ryan, Northumbria Police who called for greater interface with and operator training on the National Intelligence Model (NIM) for local CCTV planning and tasking. A range of other presentations included product information and topical issues from suppliers and end-users.

A quality exhibition area housing over 44 exhibitors with a wide variety of CCTV related products was on offer. Sponsored 'prize draws' for MP3 players [Samsung] and an iPodTouch [Stryker Communications] were added attractions for those attending. With a pre-event Golf Day [sponsored by Persides] and relaxed evening networking dinner, the whole event was a huge success.

Derek Maltby said: "With the NPIA news, a great range of presentations and exhibitors, this is one of our best yet".

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Notes for Editors:

Global MSC Security is an established independent security consultancy providing advice in all aspects of physical and manned security including CCTV, perimeter protection, and access control systems. Our services are supplied to a wide range of public authorities, blue chip companies and private organisations to safeguard town centres, businesses and residential communities.

We also specialise in providing focused, free-to-attend seminars and exhibitions aimed at sector end-users.

Garry Parkins was a career Civil Servant, spending over 36 years with the Home Office. During that time he undertook a range of posts linked to service delivery in the public sector. He has operated at senior levels in the Home Office and across Whitehall, overseeing the delivery of a number of key projects. In recent years Garry has been Head of Crime Strategy for the Home Office, where a major project was the delivery of the National CCTV Strategy, and more recently he was Head of Police Integrity and NDPB Sponsorship at the Home Office. Garry left the Home Office in June 2008.

Garry is currently working as a consultant with the National Policing Improvement Agency, where he is advising them on the implementation of the recommendations of the National CCTV Strategy.

Details of other presentations and the suppliers' exhibition are available upon request.

The next Global MSC Seminar is on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at Wokefield Park, Reading Berkshire; themed as : 'Thinking Ahead ... Upgrade & Integration'. By invitation through the company offices.

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