

No stone unturned by CCTV managers

Pictured left, West Oxfordshire District Council enforcement officers Ady Cole and Glen Lee

Photo courtesy of Global MSC Security



For a second year in Swindon, dozens of local authority and police CCTV people from around the country met manufacturers.

Lower running costs and improved functionality were a recurring theme during a day when it was stressed that new wireless equipment could run alongside existing analogue CCTV, allowing systems to evolve. Bristol-based consultancy Global MSC Security Director Derek Maltby organised the event. Mike Holt from Sirus told the conference that high resolution Internet Protocol (IP) cameras provided ten times the resolution of the best available analogue equivalents, yet there was no reason why they couldn't simply be added to enhance what was in place. Derek Maltby told *Professional Security* afterwards that the day sought also to explore ways of generating income. He said: "We were able to attract the Premier League of security system manufacturers and put them in a room with a range of the people who buy their products. Both groups benefit from those personal contacts." Peter Currie, from Vigilant, admitted that manufacturers hadn't always been very good at explaining themselves so he

welcomed the chance to speak to end users. Gary Frost from IndigoVision agreed: "There is still a lot of misunderstanding about IP systems and a reluctance on the part of some local authorities to move into this new technology. That's why an event like this is so valuable, to give us an opportunity to explain and people to consider their options."

Quality balance

Speakers touched on issues including the vexed question of the balance between quality, frame rate, compression and storage. Global MSC Security's Graeme Ross tried to simplify things by encouraging customers to consider clearly what they wanted systems to do and then challenge producers to satisfy those needs. The days of massive capital investment have gone. IP systems allow us to look at a completely different business model which can also include income generation where enforcement helps pay for the cost of the infrastructure."

Waste transmission

He also pointed out ways to save, significantly: "Something like 93pc of

the pictures transmitted from the camera are wasted because only 7pc end up being stored. People should be thinking about doing the processing at the camera and then only transmitting the data that will actually be required." One man who has already made steps towards savings is John Broomfield, Nottingham's CCTV Manager, who explained he was looking to move away from rented fibre optic circuits, which cost £900 a year, per camera. But he urged delegates to plan across the whole of their areas rather than attempting to solve problems in a piecemeal fashion. Charles Butters, from Aylesbury Vale District Council, was impressed by what he'd heard from Nottingham. "We expect councils right across Buckinghamshire to move towards a closer relationship. If we plan on a wider basis now for the future, the benefits will be clear both in terms of the service council tax payers enjoy and the amount of money wireless systems cost," he said. Bristol City Council's Emergency Control Manager, Gordon McLanaghan, saw ways in which he could save, and bring in, money. "I am lucky that I am encouraged to look for new ways of doing things, to be innovative and entrepreneurial if you like. One of the things I am thinking about is making better use of the existing broadband connection in Bristol's 180 schools. They are standing idle when the schools are closed. By using the new technologies that are now available, we could link up with their security cameras, look out for criminal activity and get a quick response to incidents. We could make a modest charge, it would save the schools money repairing damage and could even lower insurance premiums," he added.

Fly tipping fight

Enforcement officers, Ady Cole and Glen Lee, from West Oxfordshire District Council left no stone unturned in their combat against fly tippers. They are pictured looking not at a lump of rock but a covert, movement activated camera system. Ady Cole said: "An officer has to spend hours at a potential fly tipping site and there's no guarantee they will actually see anything. The reason we're so keen to

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UNHAPPY

'I do not want to start fear of crime, but you're more likely to be a victim of fraud than anything else.'

Reported in *The Times*, the New City of London Police Commissioner, Mike Bowron.

invest in this technology is it will save a lot of time and therefore money. We can regularly check on the cameras and capture the high quality pictures which will help us secure a conviction." Fly tipping is a UK-wide problem, not only spoiling the landscape but costing councils, as they clear up behind the irresponsible. "The beauty of this kind of system is the camera could be lurking practically anywhere, so when people are dumping their rubbish they will never know if they're under



Left: Derek Maltby of Global MSC Security. Right: Looking over an exhibit, Bristol City Council Emergency Control Manager Gordon McLanaghan