

# SECURITY Update

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For Manufacturers, Distributors, Dealers,  
System Integrators & Installers of Security,  
Fire & Safety Systems.

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## Top 7 Trends For The Security Industry In 2024



The security industry in 2024 is an exciting landscape that we are actively navigating. As we embrace technological innovation, and adapt to evolving societal needs, we are witnessing the convergence of advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and big data. These innovations are paving the way for smarter, more proactive, and predictive security solutions that are not only robust, but also meet the easy-to-use demands of users.

In this article, we want to share the top seven trends that we anticipate will have a significant impact on the security industry this year.

1. AI is accelerating the augmentation of perception in machines

AI is accelerating the transformation of the security industry by enhancing machines' perceptual capabilities. This is possible thanks to integration with visible light, audio, X-ray, infrared light, radar, and other technologies.

One example of this is Artificial Intelligence Image Signal Processing (AI-ISP) technology, which is transforming video imaging and provides high-quality visuals through intelligent noise reduction. This enables clearer images with wide dynamic range and sharp detail even in low-light environments, reducing reliance on additional lighting and leading to more efficient situational responses.

2. AI-driven applications are set to revolutionise diverse industries

In the past year, advancements in large-scale AI models have improved the ability to interpret complex situations using diverse data. We believe this progress creates possibilities for more tailored AI solutions across various sectors including manufacturing, energy, healthcare, and education.

Based on open platforms and advanced algorithms, more streamlined architectures facilitate seamless AI adoption in a range of different verticals. This fosters collaboration and creates an innovative ecosystem for technological advancement.

3. Cloud and edge computing convergence is accelerating

The convergence of cloud and edge computing is driving the emergence of faster and more efficient services. This leads to real-time, intelligent solutions, like smarter perimeter control and more convenient cloud-based security system management, empowering us with immediate analytics and better decision-making at the edge. Cloud-based platforms also minimise hardware investments and offer scalable options for businesses of all sizes and budgets, reducing upfront and ongoing costs.

4. Digital twin technology has the potential to truly transform business management

Digital twins are virtual models that simulate real-world scenarios in real time. By integrating with AIoT, cloud computing, and other technologies, they provide us with dynamic insights on performance metrics like security,

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traffic, and energy usage. This enables an immersive experience with synchronised visuals, improving process effi-

ciency, enabling proactive maintenance, and leading to cost savings and better business management.

Contd... page 4

Dear Reader

In December 2023, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) had unveiled its annual report titled "Crime in India for 2022. As per this report, Cyber Crimes are on the rise, surging by 24.4%, totalling 65,893 cases, a significant surge from 52,974 cases in 2021. Cyber fraud constituted the majority of registered cases (64.8%). Cyber crimes have been on the rise across the globe, including India.



In today's digitally connected world, massive amounts of data are generated by various entities. Data holds immense value in today's digital age, serving as the life-blood of organisations and individuals alike. It encompasses sensitive information, intellectual property, and critical business insights. Protecting this data is paramount due to the escalating threat of cyber attacks. Breaches can result in financial losses, reputational damage, and compromise individual privacy. Robust cybersecurity measures, including encryption, firewalls, and regular security audits, are essential to safeguard against evolving threats. Proactive defence strategies not only preserve the integrity of data but also ensure the continuity of operations, fostering trust among stakeholders in an increasingly interconnected and data-driven world.

Cyber-physical threats refer to risks and vulnerabilities that arise from the convergence of digital (cyber) and physical systems. These threats can impact various critical infrastructure sectors, including industrial control systems (ICS), healthcare, transportation, and smart cities.

Video and other security systems generate a plethora of data, including logs, access records, and anomaly alerts. These logs provide insights into potential threats, user activities, and system vulnerabilities. To protect this data, encryption is crucial, ensuring that unauthorised access is thwarted. Security systems integrators with strong IT knowledge and skills, who understand the architecture of IoT devices such as IP cameras and networked access control, and who can work with the client IT teams are the need of the hour.

Systems integrators, possessing strong cybersecurity skills is of paramount importance. In an era where cyber threats are pervasive, integrating systems without adequate cybersecurity expertise poses significant risks. Cyber-skilled integrators understand the complexities of securing interconnected technologies, ensuring the resilience of integrated systems against potential vulnerabilities and attacks. Their proficiency in risk assessment, threat mitigation, and adherence to best practices helps safeguard sensitive data and maintain the integrity of interconnected systems. Cyber-skilled systems integrators not only enhance the security posture of integrated solutions but also instil confidence in clients, mitigating the evolving risks associated with a constantly changing cybersecurity landscape.

Regularly updating and patching security software helps mitigate vulnerabilities. Implementing strict access controls and multifactor authentication adds an extra layer of defence against unauthorised users. Additionally, secure backups are vital to prevent data loss in case of a breach. Continuous monitoring and threat intelligence integration empower security systems to adapt and respond effectively to emerging cyber threats.

Till we meet next month, Stay Safe and Keep Others Safe.

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# Optex flies through GIT perimeter protection testing



scan Pro firmware version 2.1.0. For example, integration can be done like an IP camera via ONVIF.

For the test, Optex engineers were asked to install the Redscan in cooperation with I-Alarmsysteme, to commission, configure and parameterise the system in order to pass the tests successfully. During the tests, a total of 105 scenarios were carried out, based on known perpetrator behaviour and certified test procedures of national as well as international organisations.

Real perpetrator behaviour, which is known to the security authorities and the test team from projects in Germany and abroad, in these scenarios, according to the motto "From practice - for practice". The evaluation of the systems was carried out from the perspective of an employee in a security service control centre. The alarm messages of each individual system were registered and documented at an intruder alarm centre.

The RLS-50100V was mounted on the side of the test site, i.e. at the height of the middle distance range, which is why a direct comparison of the results in the distance ranges with other tested systems is not useful. Over the entire detection range, according to Optex, the Redscan solution showed excellent detection and this was independent of clothing type, time of day, camouflage and sabotage attempts. Even at low approaches, which are difficult to detect, the system was successful with very few false alarms. Operation is simple and the built-in camera provides usable images.

Optex selected the RLS-50100V LiDAR detector to take part in the recent GIT System Test for perimeter protection. This long-range Lidar sensor is designed to detect intruders and moving objects in an area of 50 x 100 m without gaps, offering high detection resolution over the entire detection area and is intended as a solution for high-security sites.

The detection area can be divided into up to 8 independent zones, for each target size, sensitivity and output can be adjusted. The system was deployed along the test field behind the perimeter fence in the test.

One advantage of the sensor is that it has a built-in camera that can record alarm events and store logs and video sequences of the alarms on the unit. This makes it easier to verify what triggered an alarm. Camera support has also simplified installation and walk tests. A laser line overlay in the camera view was a useful guide to where the detection area was.

The video image was also displayed in the alarm centre, where the evaluation and alarm were based on the Red-

## DoorBird A1122 access control system

DoorBird A1122 is more than just an access control system – it redefines security and convenience. Compact and IP-based, it is a multi-technology device that can be used for a wide range of applications.

Even when installed as a stand-alone solution, it opens up new possibilities for use in a wide range of locations such as back and side doors, garages, storage and packing rooms and elevators. Its compact design allows the unit to be easily mounted on the door frame and integrate seamlessly into any environment.

The A1122 complements DoorBird's successful A1121 IP access controller. This efficient access control system featuring a keypad and RFID

reader is now also available with a fingerprint reader in place of the keypad. Access can be controlled via fingerprint or via the multi-frequency RFID reader (125 kHz + 13.56 MHz) using an RFID transponder.

The integrated fingerprint reader not only provides maximum security, but also features an intelligent locking mechanism that temporarily locks the system after multiple unauthorised attempts.

Easy network integration via wireless or wired connection via Wi-Fi or LAN cable. If a network cable is used, the device can even be powered using Power over Ethernet (PoE). In the event of a temporary internet outage, all functions within the local network





will remain active. The software for the IP access control solution runs on the device itself, eliminating the need for additional hardware components.

In addition to two relays, DoorBird A1122 has a configurable Wiegand output interface for seamless integration with existing access control or alarm systems. You can also integrate the device into third-party home and building automation systems via HTTP(S) calls.

This new access control system from DoorBird is more than just innovative technology – it is a holistic solution that combines security, flexibility and ease of use. DoorBird A1122 takes the future of access control to a new level.

## SALTO introduces latest smart locking innovation for multi-family residential market security



SALTO has launched the DBolt Touch smart deadbolt that offers a retrofit and smart locking solution for upgrading mechanical deadbolt locks in the multi-family residential market.

The DBolt Touch implements the latest technology and the top level of functionality that multi-family housing residents, operators, and access managers desire and have been eagerly anticipating.

Resident experience and convenience are driving the direction and adoption of new smart access and physical security solutions in the residential industry. Easy to retrofit, compatible with any deadbolt door, and with different models available, the SALTO DBolt Touch smart lock has been designed to blend seamlessly and connect wirelessly to the property ecosystem.

In addition, the SALTO DBolt Touch's smart access technology—powered by SALTO's access management platforms—delivers a comprehensive and modern digitised property that unifies security, access control, property management, and the tenant experience in an all-in-one smart access solution for residential living.

With secure smart keypad access, the SALTO DBolt Touch supports a wide range of access control methods to create the perfect keyless experience. The DBolt Touch smart keypad reader enables PIN-based entry for residents

and visitors. For users who require a physical credential, the DBolt Touch series offers the same level of security and convenience by supporting smart RFID key cards.

The DBolt Touch enables mobile access via SALTO's Digital Key solution—JustIN Mobile. Property managers and residents can use a smartphone—including Apple Wallet—to access a property's various doors, amenities, and individual units.

With a wide range of finishes, the SALTO DBolt Touch can fit in almost any kind of environment—from apartment building doors to single-family entrances or from modern to classic installations. Rated AAA according to A156.40 (American National Standard for Residential Deadbolts), the DBolt Touch meets the highest standards set by the security industry.

The SALTO DBolt Touch comes in two versions: the DBolt Touch and the DBolt Touch-Interconnected (IC). The DBolt Touch deadbolt model is a smart lock that simply replaces an existing mechanical deadbolt. It's an easy-to-install unit door lock that adds smart features and maintains the design integrity of the residence. The DBolt Touch Interconnected Deadbolt (IC) model is a smart deadbolt that combines the convenience of a passage lever with the security of a deadbolt in an all-in-one unit. Using an innovative multi-sided smart locking mechanism, users can retract both the latch bolt and deadbolt simultaneously in a single motion for a quick and easy exit.

The SALTO DBolt Touch is fully compatible across the SALTO plat-

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form, so it's the perfect solution to be used in a system that can manage full sites. SALTO has an extensive access solutions portfolio for common doors, emergency exits, garage doors,

elevators, pool areas, and more. The SALTO DBolt Touch is part of the most complete locking platform to fit any need.

## SecuGen IQ SC1 Contact Smart Card Reader

SecuGen, an optical fingerprint device and technology vendor, has announced the immediate availability of the new SecuGen IQ SC1 contact smart card reader.

The release of the IQ SC1 marks SecuGen's entry into the market for standalone smart card readers. This new contact smart card reader joins SecuGen's line of fingerprint readers combined with smart card readers all in one device, including the Hamster Pro Duo SC/PIV, Hamster Pro Duo CL, and Hamster Pro Trio.

The IQ SC1 brings new and sophisticated technology to the world of smart card readers in a compact, modern design that meets the rigorous requirements of smart card-based applications. It features a USB full speed interface and a smart card read/write speed of up to 600 kbps.

Highly durable, the IQ SC1 can last for 200,000 card insertion cycles.

It has a variety of certifications, such as EMV Level 1 (Contact) and PBOC, making it the ideal smart card reader for e-Banking and e-Payment applications. It is fully compliant with PC/SC and CCID specifications, and supports various operating systems such as Windows, Solaris, Linux, and macOS. Additionally, the IQ SC1 may be used on mobile devices running on the Android platform versions 3.1 and above.

SecuGen distributes its products through a worldwide network of OEMs, software companies and systems integrators. As a result, SecuGen products are available on every continent through local partners that provide convenient support in the language and time zone of end-user customers.





## Unique thermal-based AI nuisance alarm filtering from SightLogix



This technology is backward compatible for existing customers with Gen4 SightSensors at no charge through a simple firmware update starting in early Jan 2024 and will be included in all new SightSensors at that time.

Thermal AI is an enhancement to the SightSensor's "One-Click" geospatial calibration and pre-defined detection rules. It is enabled on a per-zone basis with a simple checkbox.

Once activated, users benefit from exceptional AI performance during the day or night, in all weather conditions, and without the cost and complexity of lighting that is required for visible-based cameras with or without AI.

SightLogix's innovation represents a significant leap forward in outdoor security technology.

It offers unparalleled reliability and ease of use, building on SightLogix's position as a longstanding innovator in advanced outdoor security solutions for protecting important assets and managing risks.

SightLogix, the major innovator of outdoor video security solutions, is introducing thermal-based AI alarm filtering, an edge-based solution that significantly enhances outdoor performance.

This development augments SightLogix's "above all, don't miss" detection architecture, aiming to virtually eliminate outdoor nuisance alarms while maintaining the highest Probability of Detection (PD). Designed for perimeters and outdoor areas, the thermal edge-based AI operates directly within the camera, delivering powerful and reliable performance 24/7.

## Texecom evolves Ricochet wireless range



Texecom has released a number of new enhancements to its Ricochet wireless product portfolio. Following a focused programme of development, the wireless range now benefits from extended range, improved battery performance and the most advanced testing yet.

Enhancements to the Ricochet technology range include:

- Increased wireless transmission range on the Premier Elite 64-W range which now has a clear line of sight PIR detection and contact sensor range in excess of 1000m.
- Improved battery performance in the Impaq SC-W, Micro Contact, Micro Shock and Capture ranges.
- Inclusion of Micro deep base with every Ricochet product to enhance signal strength when installed

in applications where metal surfaces and materials are present.

Further to the above, Texecom has also invested in a wireless conditioning chamber. This chamber ensures that the Impaq SC-W and Capture product ranges undergo a further round of robust testing in the most extreme of conditions. Further wireless ranges will be added to this testing process in the near future.

Texecom has also introduced a number of new guides on its website detailing best practices when installing these wireless solutions, including key factors that impact signal range and performance and in addition, a custom-built design tool to guide installers on real world performance by showing the impact of obstacles such as walls and differing materials.

## Vicon integrates Valerus VMS with Omnilert's AI visual gun detection system



Vicon Industries, Inc., a subsidiary of Cemtrex Inc., designer and manufacturer of video surveillance and access control software, hardware, and components, and Omnilert, a leader in active shooter solutions, announced today the integration of Valerus VMS with Omnilert's AI visual gun detection system.

With this powerful integration, Valerus users can now connect Omnilert Gun Detect to instantly trigger an alarm in Valerus when a firearm is detected by the AI in live video feeds, which then sets off a series of pre-planned responses once the threat is verified.

Omnilert Gun Detect AI software leverages Vicon cameras to create an early gun detection solution. In fractions of a second, the software can identify a gun threat and send an alert to Valerus operators. Once verified, an

immediate response can be initiated within Valerus. If using Vicon's Access Control Solution, VAX, this could include a range of automations for seamless, instantaneous responses, such as alerting administrators and automatically locking doors.

Omnilert Gun Detect is a powerful AI software that will enable customers to potentially stop a gunman before they open fire or enter the premises, providing advance warning to those inside the building and potentially saving many lives.

According to the FBI, most active shooter incidents are over within 5 minutes, highlighting the need for early threat detection and a robust, automatic response. In these situations, every second counts and through this integration, Vicon customers will be given the gift of time they need to better protect anyone in harm's way.

*Contd... from page 1*

## Top 7 Trends For The Security Industry....

5. Display technology, particularly LED, is advancing rapidly

The rapid adoption of COB (Chip-on-Board) technology is driving demand for small-pitch LEDs. Innovative LED solutions are also emerging that balance lower energy consumption with high resolution, promoting carbon neutrality, and supporting broader applications.

Integrated video walls in command centres, for example, help us make smart decisions with intuitive views. Interactive displays and digital signage are acting as catalysts for digital transformation in education, business, and the hospitality sectors.

6. Digital identity authentication security is increasingly crucial in safeguarding cybersecurity

Digital identity authentication involves verifying and authorising identities, which is a pivotal cybersecurity measure. Threat actors use techniques

like phishing, malware, and social engineering to steal personal information and identities. To safeguard digital identities, users and organisations should employ strong passwords, use multi-factor authentication, avoid public networks, update software in a timely manner, and guard against social engineering attacks.

7. Innovative technologies drive environmental sustainability and climate change resilience

Industry stakeholders are increasingly adopting green practices to reduce carbon emissions and resource usage. This includes efficient product transportation, sustainable packaging, and standardised component utilisation. We also expect to see innovative technologies being used to increase climate change resilience. By integrating environmental sensors into security systems, for instance, we can better respond to natural disasters like floods, wildfires, landslides, and avalanches.

# 3D X-Ray launches new flat panel for restricted space



ing and rapid deployment.

3D X-Ray, CEO, Vincent Deery said, "Intersec is always a very good event and location to start our year and this year we are delighted to introduce the new Threatscan AS2 to the 3D X-Ray range of products. We are talking to our customers and are always innovating to meet their evolving needs. It was clear to us from that dialogue that operators often find themselves struggling to deploy the larger panels in very restricted spaces. The issue was addressed by designing the Threatscan AS2 to meet those operational requirements.

In addition to the Threatscan AS2 on show 3DX-Ray also presented established products already in service with EOD units worldwide, the Threatscan-AS1(ISC), Threatscan-LS1 and the Threatscan-LS3.

3D X-Ray recently introduced its new smaller Threatscan AS2 flat panel for the company's portable x-ray system, at this year's Intersec show in Dubai. The new panel has been specifically designed for operators working in areas where access is very restricted.

A smaller footprint with a slightly improved resolution as its big brother, the AS1, using the latest glassless technology inside to reduce size and weight. It boasts an excellent dead zone cut off, down to less than 3mm on two sides. Another advantage of the new panel is that its reduced size and weight make it ideal for backpack-

## HID Olea partnership brings access innovation to self-service kiosks



are primed to empower people with unsurpassed levels of security and user convenience when it comes to countless check-in and access scenarios. The HID UAre.U Camera Identification System – featuring facial recognition technology (FRT) – can now be incorporated into the Olea Hypermodular Kiosk to address the rising demand for flexible, customisable ID authentication and verification across various vertical settings.

Facial recognition technology continues to gain traction based on its unique combination of high security and user convenience. Paired with the extremely flexible Olea kiosk, HID's AI-powered Uare.U Camera Identification System is an ideal solution for applications needing to handle high throughput.

HID facial recognition technology offers:

- **Speed and accuracy:** On-the-spot verification authenticates and validates an individual's identity in seconds, reducing wait time in line.
- **Ease of use:** One look is all that's required to securely capture a facial image for frictionless identity verification.
- **Security:** Biometric traits provide irrefutable proof of identity and

HID, a worldwide leader in identity solutions, and Olea Kiosks, a provider of self-service kiosk solutions, have entered into a new collaborative engagement that aims to revolutionise the user experience when it comes to access control and user authentication across a range of applications.

Industries from healthcare, hospitality and retail to banking, government, transportation and beyond

presence to prevent fraud.

- **Convenience:** The face becomes the ID card, pin and password, so there's nothing to carry, forget, lose or have stolen.
  - **No human intervention:** This seamless technology requires no dedicated staff to check IDs.
  - **Contactless and hygienic:** Facial recognition offers a touchless way to authenticate individuals' identities, minimising exposure to health risks by reducing shared touchpoints.
- Olea developed the Hypermodular kiosk in response to market demands

for flexible, customizable kiosks for the security and access control space. In addition to housing HID's leading facial recognition camera, Olea's kiosk design can also accommodate fingerprint scanners, barcode scanners, ticket and ID document readers, RFID readers, card printers, and other HID offerings within its Hypermodular footprint.

Bringing together HID facial recognition with Olea kiosks supports myriad use cases for reliable self-service check-in and authentication, for applications in retail & hospitality, banking, healthcare, airport and border crossing.

## Airshield wireless security system offers new revenue streams



The EN50131 Grade 2 and PD6662: 2017 compliant Airshield wireless security system from Dahua UK uses advanced, stable and reliable RF communication technology and cloud services to provide a flexible, user-friendly system and an affordable potentially new revenue stream solution for installers and security companies.

At the heart of Airshield is a smart hub which supports up to 150 devices, including PIR detectors, PIR cameras, dual-tech detectors with PIR and microwave technologies, keypads and key fobs, panic buttons, door and window detectors, water leak detectors, smoke detectors and sirens. The wireless indoor monitor with touchscreen can be used as an alarm keypad.

Airshield features Airfly 3.0 – which delivers frequency hopping for optimum long-range two-way wireless connectivity and AES128 encryption, RF-HD for faster image transmission and higher image resolution, and Dahua's Cloud services for more convenient and efficient alarm monitoring and system health. Being fully wireless makes Airshield quick and easy to install, and avoids damage to décor and the fabric of a building caused by cabling. It also makes it quick and simple to add or move devices.

Although powerful as a standalone or connected system, Dahua's door entry and video surveillance products extend features further. Using an indoor

monitor, users can arm and disarm the alarm system in addition to receiving alarm events and verifying alarm-triggered video and images. They can also configure various rules for alarm to video integration, manage siren alarms and arm/disarm the alarm system connected to an NVR. Alarms, CCTV and detectors can all be managed easily via the indoor monitor and/or a single, intuitive mobile phone app.

The alarm hub can connect to an NVR/XVR and indoor monitor via network protocols, providing more functions and a better user experience. All events are managed on the converter, so alarm receiving centre (ARC) staff can configure event forwarding methods (TCP/IP or serial), protocols and event types as needed, while the platform software only needs to receive, record and process these events. Installers can provide their customers with a device health management service, and users can request monitoring services from selected ARCs.

Through mobile apps and Internet connected PCs, end-users, installers and security companies can remotely manage the alarm system and receive alarm events – anytime and anywhere. An additional converter app forwards events received from hubs to the platform software used by an ARC, based on standard protocols such as SIA DC-09, Sur-Gard, or the private protocol of the platform software itself. It receives events from hubs through two channels: auto registration and cloud forwarding (TCP/IP and serial port), ensuring event information is delivered reliably at all times.



# Abode Edge Camera Offers DIY AI Edge Technologies



Abode Systems, a provider of DIY smart security products, has announced its new Abode Edge Camera. The newly announced camera was developed in tandem with Xailient, a provider of computer-based AI technologies, and Morse Micro, a Wi-Fi HaLow silicon vendor. According to the company, the Abode Edge Camera is the first wireless home security camera with AI edge technologies.

“Nearly every home security camera is facing the wrong direction,” says Chris Carney, founder and CEO of Abode Systems. “Technology constraints have limited home security cameras in two major ways: a field of view that remains fixed and facing away from the home and rampant connectivity issues if the camera is deployed too far away. In nearly all of these cases, that leaves what matters most – the home – completely out of frame or with an offline camera. At Abode, we believe security cameras should keep an eye on what is most important. Together with our partners, we are breaking the chains that tether security cameras to an outdated viewpoint. The Abode Edge Camera enables a new era of home security camera solutions capable of being deployed at edge-of-property to bring the home, and what matters most, back into focus.”

The U.S. manufacturer states that its latest product provides homeowners with a combination of a 1.5 mile transmission range and long battery life. Through these features that include the Wi-Fi HaLow technologies that are capable of overcoming the

limitations of traditional Wi-Fi by operating on narrow frequency bands that enable the camera's wireless signals to penetrate obstacles to deliver connectivity in a range of settings, including noisy environments. Abode Systems emphasize these benefits offer 10 times the range, 100 times the coverage area, and 1,000 times the volume of traditional Wi-Fi technologies.

Upon release, Abode Systems boasts the Abode Edge Camera will be the first Wi-Fi CERTIFIED HaLow camera with plug-and-play features to seamlessly connect to an existing Wi-Fi home network.

Some of the other features the AI camera provides homeowners include a 6,000 mAh rechargeable lithium-ion battery that is capable of battery life performance up to one year on a single charge, and an integrated PIR motion sensor that in combination with AI detection, alerts the camera to activity that triggers the recording of critical events. When motion is not detected, the camera automatically enters into a deep sleep mode, preserving precious battery.

Abode Systems points out the new Edge Camera integrates with any existing Abode home security system or it can be deployed as a standalone solution. To support the launch of the new camera, Abode is also announcing the introduction of a new, single-camera video plan designed to help users maximize coverage.

The Abode single-camera Video Plan provides users with AI-enabled Smart Detect, on-demand live view, and up to 10 days of timeline from which captured video clips can be viewed and downloaded.

In addition, to support Abode users who would like to deploy more than one camera, the Abode Standard Plan provides the same 10-day timeline to view and download recorded clips, live viewing, and AI-enabled Smart Detect across unlimited cameras.

These compact cameras can be recessed for discreet surveillance or mounted in ceilings for complete 360° coverage. Featuring a tamper-resistant casing and integrated IP66-/IP67-rated weather shield, they're protected against rain, snow, and sunlight—ideal for outdoor wall mounting. In ad-



dition, all four varifocal camera heads can be moved and rotated to provide the optimal field of view depending on specific needs.

Built on ARTPEC-8, these high-performance cameras feature a deep learning processing unit (DLPU) eliminating the need for expensive

servers and allowing for a faster and more scalable system. It's possible to run metadata and AXIS Object Analytics streams on multiple channels to detect and classify people and vehicles, for instance, entering a user-defined area.

Key features include:

- Every angle at up to 4\*4K
- 360° IR illumination with individually controlled LEDs
- Flexible mounting options
- Support for advanced analytics
- Axis Edge Vault safeguards device

## Hanwha launches mini multi-directional compact camera



Hanwha Vision has launched the 4-Channel AI Mini Multi-directional camera, PNM-C16013RVQ, for an intelligent and compact offering. It provides 360° coverage of scenes to operators, with AI analytics including virtual line and area detection, to provide a cost-effective and discreet solution.

Measuring just 20cm in diameter and 8 cm in height, the camera is well suited to indoor environments with low ceilings such as retail stores, shared office spaces, and restaurants. Its wide surveillance area, coupled with IR and AI analytics, removes blind spots with clear visuals in all lighting conditions.

AI within the camera helps to reduce false alarms, with real-time object classification that can capture and discern between people, faces, vehicles, and licence plates. Object classification also allows for more efficient forensic search, so operators can quickly find relevant event footage if

future investigations are required.

Virtual line and area detection can trigger alerts to teams, based on intelligent object detection. For example, if a vehicle enters an area that has been pre-set for vehicle detection, the system will alert operators of this event; if a person enters this area, no notification would be issued.

In addition, AI is used to improve image quality via Wise NR2, which optimises image noise and reduces motion blur, and Bestshot which delivers the best possible shot of an image to operators. AI-based bandwidth reduction, WisestreamIII, enhances video management without compromising image quality.

Multi-directional cameras offer cost savings for both system integrators and end users, as multi-sensor cameras use less cable, conduit and mounting hardware, compared to what would normally be required to

## AXIS P37 Panoramic Cameras

AXIS P37 Panoramic Camera Series includes three new cameras ideal for wide area surveillance: AXIS P3735-PLE delivers 4\*2 MP at 30 fps per channel, AXIS P3737-PLE delivers 4\*5 MP at 20 fps per channel, and AXIS P3738-PLE delivers 4\*4K at 15 fps per channel.



enable up to four separate cameras to do the same job. As AI analytics are processed on the edge of the camera, less server room space is required. In addition, only one VMS licence is needed, reducing operational costs.

Supplied with Hanwha Vision's cyber security, including National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) compliance and FIPS 140-2, the camera also has an added layer of protection against malware potentially accessing credentials, encryption keys, and sensitive user data. It comes with

physical tamper-evidence and role-based authentication.

The 4-Channel AI Mini Multi-directional camera combines comprehensive monitoring and performance, with a discreet and durable design alongside AI-enabled analytics to improve situational awareness. For organisations seeking a compact camera that has trustworthy cyber security and wide coverage, the 4-Channel AI Mini Multi-directional camera is ideal.

## Hikvision launches polymer anti-corrosion cameras with next-level durability and performance



Hikvision has released a range of next-generation anti-corrosion cameras. These have highly durable, lightweight polymer housings, allowing them to withstand the harshest industrial and marine environments. As well as offering durability and resilience to chemicals, salt and other corrosive materials, the new cameras offer great image quality, even in low-light conditions. With intelligent features for distinguishing between people, vehicles and other moving objects, the cameras also help to minimise security false alarms.

Max Fang, Hikvision's Product Director, says, "Corrosion is an ever-present challenge. It can affect our daily use of electronic devices and the operation of machinery in industrial environments. By inventing polymer anti-corrosion technology and products, Hikvision provides a new, effective way to meet security needs in corrosive environments. Industries and households alike will benefit

from these new cameras. They are a budget-friendly choice and users will be amazed by their ruggedness and performance."

The polymer housings of the new Hikvision corrosion-resistant security cameras eliminate the need for heavy and expensive metals like stainless steel or coated aluminium. The results are lighter, more robust cameras that are fully corrosion resistant and C5-M & NEMA 4X certified. The durability of every component is assured, from the camera mounts to cabling.

From the bullet camera to the PTZ, Hikvision's polymer anti-corrosion range offers unrivalled image clarity. Hikvision's ColorVu and DarkFighter technologies ensure clear, full-colour imaging, even in low-light settings. Powerful supplemental lighting enables clear imaging at long range.

The anti-corrosion cameras also

include a number of innovative deep learning features. One of these is Hikvision AcuSense technology, which distinguishes between human and vehicular activities and other moving objects to reduce false alarms and to alert security teams to potential incidents.

End users can integrate additional third-party deep learning features or their own algorithms into the cameras using the Hikvision Embedded Open Platform (HEOP) 2.0 and Hikvision AI Open Platform (AIOP).

The Hikvision polymer anti-cor-

rosion cameras are built to withstand harsh conditions and inclement weather in coastal areas and ports. They are equipped with a built-in window heater to prevent the camera lens from fogging up during sudden temperature changes. At the same time, a motorised wiper ensures constant imaging clarity, even in heavy rain.

The PTZ camera model also features Smart Pan-Tilt Correction, which automatically corrects the position of cameras that are moved slightly by strong winds. All of these measures ensure that environmental obstacles never compromise security.

## IMOU launches the Bullet 3 and Cruiser 2C

Smart home gadget company Imou has released its new AI-enhanced security cameras in Europe. The Bullet 3 and Cruiser 2C were two of the company's biggest announcements at IFA 2023, which showcased its improved AI human detecting algorithm. Both cameras have night vision, two-way audio, a siren and weather resistance – much like Imou's earlier security cameras.

The Bullet 3 is very similar to the Bullet 2, as both devices have the same 128-degree lens to capture video in full HD. The device can also save power by switching from full-colour to infrared at night. A dedicated "smart" mode allows the camera to

more expensive device in the pair, due to its more functional and aesthetic design. Compared to the Bullet, the Cruiser 2C is a significantly better camera – a CMOS image sensor and an F1.6 large aperture and two HD resolutions to choose from. Full-colour night vision is made possible via LED spotlights which can also turn off and activate IR tech to save energy.

However, the device also utilised Imou's AI Sense technology in its detection algorithm. When pitted against the marginally more affordable Bullet 3 and other similarly-priced smart home cameras, the Cruiser 2C is not only smarter on the software side, it's just got better hardware.



turn the LED lights back on when it detects motion.

The Bullet 3 now comes in 2k and 3k resolutions with marginally faster data transfer rates thanks to WiFi 6. Imou also claims that its AI-enhanced detection is now 99% accurate and has a range of 22m for people and 44m for other moving objects such as vehicles.

Imou's Cruiser 2C is the slightly

The Cruiser line consists of rotatable cameras that provide a full panoramic view so the 340° horizontal pan and 90° vertical tilt, while impressive, isn't at all surprising. Imou has also given users the ability to control the rotation remotely, directly from the Imou Life app. For features such as motion tracking, the device takes advantage of the pan and tilt function to deliver all-round surveillance.



## Fort Lee Police Department closes cases faster with Genetec AutoVu Cloudrunner



Genetec Inc. (“Genetec”), a leading technology provider of unified security, public safety, operations, and business intelligence solutions, announced that the Fort Lee, New Jersey Police Department has modernized its automatic license plate recognition technology (ALPR) with Genetec AutoVu Cloudrunner vehicle-centric investigative system.

The Borough of Fort Lee is connected to Manhattan, NY, via the George Washington Bridge. Its proximity to the major city brings traffic congestion and some transient crime to the area. Its legacy ALPR system generated just a list of plates and vehicles, and teams would then manually sort and narrow the data to find the vehicle in question. The PD looked to minimize that investigative time to find suspects and close cases faster with better access to vehicle information.

They found the solution in Genetec AutoVu Cloudrunner, a solar-powered, subscription-based, easy-to-install, turnkey solution that uses vehicle characteristics combined with ALPR to enhance police departments’ ability to solve crimes. Its high-quality sensors deliver accurate reads day and night, in any kind of weather.

“AutoVu Cloudrunner has incredible edge-based intelligence and search capabilities,” said Fort Lee Police Department Lieutenant Thomas Porto. “When we’re looking for a vehicle the search is wicked fast, and being able to narrow down searches by make, model, color and time frame helps us speed up our investigation.”

Porto shared a recent case where the department received a 911 call

late at night from a housing facility who observed suspicious individuals in a vehicle on the property. Tapping the AutoVu Cloudrunner camera in the area, the PD was able to use the time frame, location, and vehicle description to match the license plate info, which identified it as stolen.

When the suspects abandoned the vehicle at a nearby school with which the PD had federated video, they were able to use the Genetec Omnicast video management system to see where the suspects had gone, quickly apprehending them safely.

The AutoVu Cloudrunner solution is solar-powered and plug-and-play complete, making it easy for the Fort Lee PD to deploy “We mounted the cameras, worked with Genetec for a few minutes, and we’re off to the races,” Porto said.

The audit features of AutoVu Cloudrunner also help cut down investigative time and resources. When they start a search, for example, they only need to enter the case number once, and all subsequent searches in that query will be tied to that case number and logged in audit trails for compliance.

“This is such a game-changer,” said Porto. “With our previous system, we’d need to re-enter the case number and other information for every single search. That was cumbersome and slowed our investigative work. AutoVu Cloudrunner eliminates all of that.”

## Golf club gets wireless fire safety upgrade after system failure

Working in partnership with Fire Action, Hyfire’s Taurus wireless fire devices have been installed at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club. Crowborough Beacon Golf Club is one of the premier clubs in the South East and due to an unexpected failure of the club’s previous system, the upgrade needed to be rapidly specified and installed.

The Hyfire Taurus wireless system

with the existing system still in operation, but we didn’t have that luxury here.

“Using a wireless system was crucial due to the historic nature and decor of the building, as well as the need to get the new system live as rapidly as possible. The collaboration with Hyfire and the timely support from Gemma, who conducted the wireless survey for us, ensured we could install



was installed, consisting of 46 devices, along with a fire panel, translator, expanders, and base sounders, designed to blend into the surroundings and have minimal disturbance to the club’s aesthetics and structure.

John Fletcher, Fire Safety Surveyor at Fire Action, explained the project’s criticality: “When we were approached by the club regarding their fire alarm system failure, we knew that time was of the essence. Normally, these things can be planned over time and the installation can be conducted

and commission the new system in record time.”

Developed in Trieste, Italy, Taurus features Pathfinder Technology, which is said to allow the devices to communicate over 1km, point to point in open air, and further where expansion hops are used. Antenna technology has also been used, designed to allow communication across different frequencies and environments, which means, the firm said, that Taurus can do the job with less equipment and less batteries.

## Dahua deploys turnstile gates in New Zealand gyms to ensure secure, reliable and efficient access control



CityFitness is one of the largest fitness gym chains in New Zealand. With almost 50 gyms across the country (average area: 5,000 square metres), each facility is open 24/7 and accommodates a huge number of people

daily.

A tailored automatic speedgate solution that is secure, reliable, and efficient is imperative to ensure quick access to their facilities and prevent



unauthorised individuals from entering the gyms. CityFitness has an existing access control system from a third-party supplier. Integrating Dahua turnstiles with this system was not a simple task.

Nevertheless, working together with a local partner installer, the local Dahua team was able to successfully integrate the Dahua turnstile gates with the existing third-party platform.

Dahua's turnstile gates were successfully deployed in 10 gym facilities of CityFitness across the country. These swing turnstiles include DHI-ASGB610X-L (left side), Dahua DHI-ASGB620X-D (centre of dual lanes), and DHI-ASGB610X-R (right side).

This solution provides an automatic access control management specifically tailored to City Fitness' actual requirements for security, reliability, and efficiency. It is equipped with a built-in accurate people-counting function and infrared anti-tailgating sensors to prevent unauthorised access.

An alarm will sound if someone follows an entering person without swiping. It can be flexibly integrated with third-party platforms, with several access methods available such as RFID, facial recognition, and QR code scanning. Also, it can be easily configured for single and multi-entry setups, making it suitable for a wide range of applications.

This automatic speed gate solution developed by Dahua significantly transformed the access control management in CityFitness facilities, enabling quick access to their gyms while ensuring the safety of their members. The local Dahua team also provides unwavering service and support that significantly contributed to the overall success of the project.

CityFitness chose Dahua because their speed gate exceeded our expectations. It enhances our access control, and its anti-tailgating technology ensures a safe environment," says Clint Paul, National Security Manager at CityFitness. "The integration options and configurability make it perfect for our needs."

## Baylor University launches mobile credentials for enhanced campus experience



Baylor University announced the launch of NFC wallet-based mobile credentials on its campus in collaboration with CBORD. This move positions Baylor as a trailblazer among Big 12 universities and exemplifies the institution's dedication to enhancing the campus experience for students, faculty and staff.

Mobile credential technology allows students, faculty and staff to navigate campus securely and with ease using their smartphone or watch to make purchases, access their meal plan, attend events, check in to class and more. This technology is especially noteworthy for its seamless integration with Schlage AD-400 locks, enabling students to utilise their smartphones for secure and convenient room access, eliminating the need for traditional physical keys.

CBORD and Baylor were very methodical in the planning and preparation process to address all use cases of the mobile credentials to ensure the best-in-class student experience. Use cases included student room doors fitted with our AD-400 locks. Now students can use their phones to gain entry with just a tap.

This strategic move further cements Baylor's commitment to providing a safe, modern and efficient campus for its students. The implementation of mobile credentials not only enhances the overall student experience but also improves operational efficiencies and drives revenue for administrators.

The combination of usability, convenience and security with this solution will enhance the Baylor campus experience for students, faculty and staff.

In addition to secure physical access, the NFC wallet-based mobile credentials support a range of functionalities, providing students with a versatile tool for campus services. As Baylor embraces this new era of campus technology, it solidifies its reputation as a university that prioritises innovation and the evolving needs of its community.

## The Body Shop enhances operational efficiency with Traka



The Body Shop has installed bespoke Traka RFID locker solutions at its main distribution centre to ensure intelligent management and accountability of assets, enhance security and streamline operations.

As a global pioneer in ethical and sustainable beauty products, The Body Shop recognises the importance of responsible resource management, business practices and asset security.

At its main distribution centre in Littlehampton, three large-scale Traka intelligent locker systems have been installed to manage different devices. The first uses Traka's multi-bay cradle locker solution to manage 30 VoCollect voice-picking devices and Bluetooth headsets, all charged and ready to operate.

The second houses 40 Falcon handheld scanners, managed by Traka's specialist Asset Master Locker range with charging and battery points located. The final system presents secure storage for a kit of equipment, specifically designed for the forklift truck drivers, with each locker compartment containing a Falcon scanner, Radio and Printer. Each intelligent locker solution is offered with RFID asset detection and specialist Traka-WEB software, to provide managers with instant audit control capability to establish exact times when physical devices are removed and returned to lockers.

Says The Shift Manager, responsible for the project: "To keep up with high demands, our distribution centre operates 24/7. It is constantly evolving, driving new standards in design and use of technology to ensure our products reach our stores to meet our loyal customer demands."

"To operate at maximum capacity, we need to make it as simple and as quick as possible for authorised colleagues to not only gain access to the devices they need but also ensure they are operational and in good working order. With the introduction of Tra-

ka, we have eliminated manual control, plus we have a complete audit on all devices that we can access from anywhere. We have already noted increased accountability, traceability and fault logging, all coming together to reduce lost time and enhance operational efficiency."

The three locker solutions have been installed in two separate locations around the distribution centre, to ensure staff can easily access equipment in their work area. Eliminating the need to travel to a central location and queue to access or organise equipment has led to improved productivity at the start and end of shift periods.

Traka has also ensured all systems operate using existing Paxton Net 2 access control cards to minimise facility disruption during or after installation. Access to different assets and equipment can only be granted to authorised personnel for their identified job specification, with staff only able to take one device or kit at a time.

Lee Payne, Traka Business Development Manager added: "The introduction of Traka systems to a global distribution centre such as The Body Shop demonstrates how simple process enhancements can make a significant difference. From the initial brief through to implementation, we worked closely with the team to identify the exact requirements for each site and the accessibility needs for staff."

"We understood the need for fewer notifications, fault logging and careful authorised access control. We planned with the team to separate out the systems into specific work areas and use the Traka orange to help the locker systems stand out, all to ensure vital time could be saved for staff and management. The result is a smoother, more efficient operation throughout the supply chain, helping The Body Shop continue its mission of delivering its best-loved ethical beauty products."



## Konica Minolta provides hospital with better notifications for visible weapons



A local neighbourhood hospital, unfortunately, plagued by significant gang violence, recognised the inadequacy of its current security system.

Committed to serving the community, the hospital staff also sought protection from potential aggression that patients may bring in, their friends or family members.

With territorial disputes, robberies, carjackings, and displays of force occurring daily, the hospital urgently needed to upgrade its surveillance and enhance its alert/notification process to safeguard both patients and visitors.

The possibility of a visitor instigating a dispute within the hospital's premises is of particular concern. The Director of Security recognised the need to update the existing surveillance systems for improved detection capabilities, particularly in camera analytics. The goal was to enhance the monitoring of individuals entering the hospital premises around the clock.

Given the occurrence of visitors illegally carrying firearms, it was crucial to have better oversight when a concealed weapon became visible, especially in common areas, external parking lots, and garages, as well as the emergency room.

"You might ask yourself, who would want to have a gunfight in a hospital? We are where people heal," said the Director of Security. After an active shooter incident occurred in which a gun was produced to threaten a patient, the security team quickly realised there was no way to keep the staff out of harm's way unless his security team could quickly minimise or mitigate the problem.

Since the hospital was already a Konica Minolta customer, during a review meeting the Video Solution Services Executive (VSSE) took the opportunity to introduce the REACT platform and its suite of modules, specifically Visible Weapon Detection (VWD).

This artificial intelligence (AI)-driven detection solution would enable the hospital to use its existing cameras and video management sys-

tem (VMS). By layering in the AI app, they would have access to important data on firearms entering the facility. The software would also integrate with facility alarms and door lock-downs.

Additionally, the hospital determined that entry points were not the only places they should utilise VWD, there were also some key floors where they previously experienced some scares with violent behaviour and gun threats.

"We see a lot of gunshot wounds in the ER, and sometimes the altercations are not finished in the street with aggression continuing in our hospital," Director of Security. "While we cannot stop an armed person without law enforcement, we can better notify staff and enable them to take shelter versus walking right into a situation," Director of Security.

The VSSE also recommended additional cameras for the perimeter and parking lots to ensure there were no security gaps. The Director of Security wanted alerts on mobile devices so the team suggested a Cloud VMS to enable the alerts on any type of device.

The hospital adopted the proposed program with the REACT-VWD, Cloud VMS, and additional cameras.

Through one of their regular hospital security drills, the Director of Security could more easily locate the armed unauthorised visitor and implement a quick action protocol for the facility.

"With these upgrades, our security platform is better equipped to address possible active shooters. Our staff knows we cannot put cameras in every patient room, but these new cameras and the VWD software will give us more detection capabilities to at the very least provide notifications," Director of Security.

The hospital purchased 20 MOVE micro dome cameras and 10 PTZ MOVE cameras. The Director of Security felt confident his security team was equipped with better capabilities and automated notifications for events that occur.

This solution applies nationwide to organisations that want better oversight of their facilities, are interested in REACT, visible weapon detection, utilisation detection apps, and have clear, high-resolution video documentation for insurance or legal purposes.

## Universal RFID card and mobile credential readers enhance security for IP Parking

Universal RFID card and mobile credential readers are compatible with all major technologies used globally, ensuring customers can accommodate or change effortlessly.

A globally expanding European customer of ELATEC required RFID readers compatible with HID Prox and other transponder technologies used in the US, including NFC and Bluetooth® Low Energy (BLE) mobile credentials. In addition, these expanded capabilities had to be in the same compact form factor as their current ELATEC readers to eliminate any need for hardware modification.

IP Parking is a Dutch company founded in 2005 by owners with previous experience developing parking access and revenue control systems for hospitals, hotels, universities, airports, retail and more

With parking access and revenue control systems, an access component — a digital or machine-readable credential — is needed to give parkers access to the facilities. This typically is an RFID card. In Europe, it is primarily a MIFARE credential access card. ELATEC is one of several companies supplying IP Parking with these MI-

and all other major RFID transponder technologies worldwide, including NFC. And another ELATEC reader model added Bluetooth® Low Energy capability for mobile credentials. All in the same form factor we were already using."

"With just a minor increase in price for the increased capabilities, we suddenly got to put this incredible value add from the product into our equipment," continued Mascon.

"So, it's changed our entire sales pitch to our customers. We no longer had to qualify which readers and cards they use in their organisation, which they frequently didn't even know, and which became a sticking point in the sale." According to Mascon, IP Parking's value proposition became, "Listen, we're putting in readers in your equipment that read every credential available out there, and we're providing you hardware that's 100% future-proof."

So, you may need to read HID today but may want to read this other technology tomorrow."



FARE readers. HID Prox credentials, ubiquitous in the US, are less common in Europe, and IP Parking needed a solution.

As IP Parking expanded into the US, they had to accommodate the HID Prox requirement but had only MIFARE readers in their equipment.

"We initially purchased HID readers and connected them with serial converters to accommodate HID," said Lester Mascon, president of IP Parking. "But after discussing with ELATEC, we learned that their MIFARE readers — the ones we currently were using — could also read HID

And ever since, ELATEC reader capabilities have been a key selling feature of their products. ELATEC readers can be found in all IP Parking products, from validation terminals to pamphlet machines, entry exit devices, and after-hours readers.

"We've thoroughly enjoyed our relationship with ELATEC — their product functionality, inventory availability, and ease of getting support — and we are confident ELATEC will stay on the innovation edge," said Mascon. "They remain our partner for reader technology as a result."



## DMP's PowerCom Fire Communicator

DMP's new PowerCom Fire Communicator is designed with its own power supply and ships with a transformer and 24-hour backup battery. Whether your customers use network, AT&T or Verizon LTE, this communicator has all the power it needs without drawing from the panel.

Com Series fire modules offer network and cellular fire communication on any fire control panel via Contact ID captures. Meeting the NFPA 72 Standard for Single Communication Technology, the fire communicators provide two tip and ring terminals to easily takeover existing fire panels



with two phone lines.

If a customer's router fails, causing the fire communicator to lose network connection, it is designed to automatically disrupt voltage on the second tip and ring — that triggers the host panel to announce the trouble.

The new PowerCom Fire Communicator comes in a small red enclosure with an additional backbox, making it ideal for easy upgrades of existing fire panels. It is also a great way to replace older, more expensive communications options. If the existing panel supports Contact ID, then it is a perfect candidate for upgrading with PowerCom Fire communicators.

## Euralarm co-signs manifesto to prioritise fire safety



Euralarm is one of the co-signers of the Manifesto Keeping EU citizens fire safe in all buildings. The undersigned organisations, representing the European fire safety sector, call for the European institutions to prioritise fire safety in buildings and to develop and promote a consistent strategy with Member States for the fire safety of all people who live and work in buildings.

In 2024, almost 450 million citizens from across the European Union will have the opportunity to elect their representatives to the European Parliament and shape the agenda for the rest of the decade. These EU citizens spend 90% of their time in buildings, at home, at work or for other activities, in their home country or in other EU Member States in which they freely travel for work, studies or tourism. They expect an equal level of fire safety in any European building.

The undersigned organisations believe that the European Union must play an important coordinating role in fire safety as it impacts and is impacted by several of its core objectives.

The free movement of EU citizens is one of the fundamental EU freedoms. Every person, whether they are a resident, a tourist, or an Erasmus student, deserves and expects a consistent

level of protection and safety wherever they might be within our borders.

Moreover, striving to meet the objectives of the EU Green Deal, the European Union needs to properly address the emerging safety risks linked to electrification solutions and other modifications of the built environment. This is needed to avoid slowing down the deployment of innovative decarbonisation and sustainability solutions in EU buildings.

The EU's involvement in the field of fire safety is also deeply interwoven with principles surrounding the Single Market. The European Union has a responsibility to ensure that products within this market are not only efficient and affordable but also safe. Overseeing product safety and market surveillance is a significant facet of the EU's role.

Furthermore, through the collation of data, shared research, and exchange of experience, the EU offers a unique perspective that will enrich and strengthen the development of knowledge in the field of fire safety and help address common challenges across Member States. The co-signatories do not want to challenge the principle of subsidiarity in the domain of building codes: Member States should

therefore remain free to design their fire safety regulations by considering the local specificities in terms of building design solutions, materials, use patterns and climate. However, the undersigning parties believe that action on fire safety in buildings goes beyond building codes. The European Union can support Member States by having a coordinating role on fire safety to realise its objectives related to its shared and supporting competences in

the fields of tourism, energy, environment, human health, and consumer protection.

The Manifesto is undersigned by Euralarm, ANEC, BSEF, CoGDEM, Concrete Europe, EAPFP, EuroLux, Europacable, European Fire Safety Alliance, European Fire Sprinkler Network, Eusas, FEEDS, Fire Safe Europe, IWMA, Modern Building Alliance, Pinfa, RICS and SFPE.

## Honeywell launches new all-in-one fire panel to deliver reliable, scalable and efficient protection



Honeywell, one of the pioneering brands in fire and life safety, recently unveiled its NOTIFIER INSPIRE™ fire control system, an all-in-one fire panel that delivers reliable protection, scalability, efficient monitoring, as well as flexible and timely reporting.

The NOTIFIER INSPIRE panel is connected through Honeywell's Connected Life Safety Services (CLSS) platform. CLSS delivers real-time visibility of the fire system to installers, service technicians, and facility managers, and allows technicians to diagnose and troubleshoot problems ahead of time, improving first-time fix rates and reducing time spent on-site.

The CLSS platform has seen significant adoption with over 600 Honeywell European-based Engineered Service Distributors (ESDs) using the tools. CLSS is changing the way that fire technicians approach system alarms with 1.25 million connected points on fire systems in more than 5,500 buildings across the region.

Features of the panel

- The NOTIFIER INSPIRE panel allows building operators and facilities teams to react quickly and accurately to reported alarms without the need for elaborate product training.

- NOTIFIER INSPIRE features modularity that allows the system to be easily expanded, creating a system that grows with a building. The system reduces the amount of equipment needed, further decreasing potential maintenance, replacement parts, and overall inventory management required.

- The modern and intuitive touchscreen display helps minimise human error while providing a stylish aesthetic. The new annunciators are more versatile and can be programmed as LED indicators, action buttons, or a combination of both. It enhances technician efficiency by minimising disruption, maximising remote productivity, and supporting compliance.

- In addition to its ability to scale and expand with the building, the NOTIFIER INSPIRE system is backward compatible with existing devices and systems. This allows ESDs and technicians to manage and maintain NOTIFIER systems efficiently and cost-effectively.

- The NOTIFIER INSPIRE panel won the iF Design Award 2021 for product design in the building technology category and is tested and certified to EN54 Standards.

# How to safely use and store lithium-ion batteries in the workplace

Many millions of lithium-ion batteries are in use or storage around the world. Lithium-ion batteries are in regular use to power the many devices and vehicles that we use as part of our modern daily lives.

Fortunately, fire related incidents involving these batteries are infrequent, but there are significant fire related hazards associated with these battery cells. The combination of flammable electrolyte and significant stored energy can lead to a fire or explosion due to a single failure.

## What is the main safety concern with lithium-ion batteries?

Where a battery cell creates more heat than it can effectively dissipate, it can lead to a rapid uncontrolled release of heat energy, known as 'thermal runaway'. This can result in a fire or explosion, and may occur as a result of manufacturing defects, mechanical damage, exposure to external heating or overcharging/over-discharging.

Thermal runaway can lead to the venting of a range of gases from the battery casings, such as hydrogen (extremely flammable), carbon monoxide (toxic, asphyxiant, and flammable), and hydrogen fluoride gas (acutely toxic and corrosive).

When a battery cell ruptures/vents due to thermal runaway, immediate ignition of the emitted gases may occur, especially if the battery has a high State of Charge (SOC). Alternatively, the gases may accumulate unignited, with the potential for a very rapid combustion (deflagration) or explosion when an external ignition source is encountered.

## Overview of fire safety law and lithium-ion batteries

If Lithium-ion batteries are handled, stored, charged or used in an unsafe way within a building, this can have a significant impact on the safety of people in or around the premises.

Fire safety legislation in the UK requires the responsible person to reduce the risk of fire and the risk of the spread of fire on the premises. The responsible person must also take such general fire precautions as will ensure the safety of their employees; and take such general fire precautions as may reasonably be required to ensure that the premises are safe.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 applies to virtually all premises in England and Wales in-

cluding workplaces and the common parts of all multi-occupied residential buildings.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (and similar legislation in Scotland) require the responsible person to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to which people are exposed to identify the general fire precautions they need to take.

## Ensuring your building is lithium-ion battery safe and compliant

The extent of the use, handling, storage and charging of lithium-ion batteries will vary considerably from premises to premises. Fire safety management controls will also therefore need to be scaled appropriately for the level of hazard presented.

Undertaking a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment in compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, is the first

Undertaking a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment in compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, is the first step. The fire risk assessment should be undertaken by a suitably competent person and should cover handling, storage, use, and charging of lithium-ion batteries.

## Does a fire risk assessment have to cover Lithium-ion batteries?

A fire risk assessment is a careful look at your premises, the way in which they are used and the people who use them, from a fire safety perspective. It's about understanding the potential risks, then making recommendations to ensure that your fire safety precautions are adequate to keep people safe.

For a fire risk assessment to be considered "suitable and sufficient" in accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order it must consider all significant risks of fire. This would include fire safety considerations in relation to lithium-ion batteries if they are being stored, handled, used or charged within the premises.



## Best practices for ensuring lithium-ion battery safety

The significant findings from the fire risk assessment should provide recommendations on how to ensure that Lithium-ion batteries are handled, used, stored or charged safely. Each contribute to a strategy for fire risk management and safety measures.

## Typical recommendations may relate to:

- Only using equipment that is supplied by reputable manufacturers or suppliers and only charging batteries with a suitable OEM (original equipment manufacturer) or compatible charger designed to safely charge

the specific battery cells or battery packs in use.

- Frequent inspections of batteries for signs of damage. (Never use damaged or defective batteries.)

- Ensuring that battery handling areas are dry, cool, well-ventilated and free from high levels of humidity.

- Ensuring that battery handling areas are free from flammable or combustible materials, sharp objects and that batteries are not left in contact with conductive materials.

- Ensuring that battery charging is well managed by trained staff ensuring that batteries are removed from chargers after charging is complete, and that batteries are not left on charge in un-occupied locations.

- Ensuring that staff are fully trained on the emergency procedures and the specific instructions for dealing with damaged or faulty batteries. Staff should be aware of their limitations in relation to dealing with fires involving Lithium-ion batteries.

- Keeping batteries not in use in appropriate enclosures such as a proprietary metal battery storage cabinets or fireproof safety bags.

- Provision and maintenance of a suitable smoke detection system which provides adequate warning to other occupants of the building (ideally combining smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detection).

- Limiting the size of storage areas, and ensuring they are dedicated to Lithium-ion battery storage only.

- Consideration of externally sited, non-combustible containers or enclosures positioned no less than 3 metres from other buildings, equipment or risks.

- Provision of 2-hour rated fire compartmentation where Lithium-ion storage forms part of an internal storage arrangement.

- Reducing the potential for thermal runaway by reducing the State of Charge (SOC).

- Consideration for the provision of sprinklers to an appropriate sprinkler system design. (The packaging arrangements of lithium-ion batteries is considered to be a key element in the success or failure of a sprinkler protection system. Fire control may be achieved when sprinklers wet and cool cardboard packaging, such that chain thermal runaway reactions are prevented and fire spread contained.)

- Consideration for the provision of a fixed extinguishing agent flooding system.



# Improving access control in retail security systems



Retail security systems are complex. They include various elements, including data networks, inventory systems, and access control for the store. However, according to Alcatraz AI there are ways retailers can bolster these systems all while keeping the user experience frictionless. Retailers want to ensure their spaces are secure, but they do not want to impact employee productivity. There must be a balance, where neither is compromised.



Here, the experts at Alcatraz AI suggest five steps that retail stores can take that will increase their security posture in a way that does not impact productivity. These tips will span all the way from warehousing to point-of-sale.

## 1. Enhance inventory access control

Many stores have retail security solutions that will prevent non-staff members from walking into the storage facilities within the retail store itself. However, these existing systems can often be outdated and need further safeguards to keep up with modern demands. Beyond ensuring that the current solution is functioning as it should, retailers will also want to analyse the risk of tailgating, lost or stolen credentials, timelines where these access points may be compromised, and so forth.

Additionally, they need to be sure the access control solution that is in place does not compromise employee productivity. For instance, if staff members are in and out of these areas

multiple times an hour, they may be tempted to leave it unlocked to avoid reauthentication and the inconvenience this provides. If they do so, the entire security infrastructure is compromised.

## 2. Utilise access control for warehouses

Similar to back inventory stored at the retail location, ensuring access control is in place for warehouses is also important for business operations. Given this is where a vast majority of the inventory is stored, verifying these assets are under strict security should be considered an utmost priority. Many retail warehouses already have some sort of access control in place. Whether that is fencing to control the vehicles al-

lowed in and out, or security scanners for the warehouse itself. However, if these retail security systems are not in place,

Alcatraz recommends organisations should begin the implementation process immediately.

When considering which retail security solutions to utilise, it is important to understand its integration with the existing solution, the ease of installation, monitoring timelines and features, and how employees will interact with these solutions. Similar to the risk of on-site inventory solutions, retailers do not want a security stack that reduces productivity or has a poor user experience. This will only result in staff members bypassing the security solution entirely, to complete their tasks without interruption.

## 3. Implement multi-factor authentication

Please note, this may not be necessary for all access points in the facility. For instance, when the retail

location is open for business, access control to the main facility will not be implemented, as employees will need to flow freely throughout. However, using multi-factor authentication within retail security systems will be important for areas of higher privilege.

For example, the areas in which data is held or servers are located. Not every employee needs access to these areas, and keeping them secure will be imperative for business operations to continue. For instance, if your servers go down or your point-of-sale systems fail because an employee gained access and inadvertently did something they shouldn't within these systems, it will impact the store's ability to operate until it is resolved. Business continuity will be interrupted, all due to poor security management.

## 4. Review access roles

Each employee should have access roles that are personalised to their specific job duty. For instance, the IT staff does not need access to the inventory room, just as shelf stockers or cashiers do not need access to the servers. When staff is hired, the appropriate access credentials should be given for the job for which they are hired. Depending on these roles, different retail solutions may be in place.

As mentioned above, if they are working in a highly sensitive area, they may need multiple forms of verification to confirm their identity to access the specific area, such as

proximity cards, as well as passcodes, whereas other staff members may just need their proximity cards to gain access. On an annual basis, the retail store should conduct an access role audit to confirm employee access credentials are correct for their specific job duties.

## 5. Utilise biometric authentication for access points

When it comes to adding another layer of access control or replacing the existing retail security systems, it is vital to consider how the utilisation of this system will impact customers and employees. In the example listed above for multi-factor authentication, passcodes and proximity cards were noted. However, proximity cards can be lost, stolen, or borrowed, and passcodes are not exactly user-friendly, and also could be easily spoofed.

This is where utilising biometric retail security solutions will not only better the security infrastructure but also reduce friction for employees. By using one's face as their credentials, it cannot be spoofed.

The Alcatraz AI Rock, a facial authentication access control solution, creates a frictionless approach to retail security systems. It allows for various permissions to be allowed for each employee, creating access roles that are personalised for each staff member. The Rock also is easily integrated into current security solutions, allowing for a stacked or multi-factored approach to security for those highly sensitive areas.

## Biometric Authentication: The Key to a Secure Digital Future

An ever-expanding digital space demands managing a growing trove of passwords, continuously leading to a burdened user experience. According to research from McKinsey, customers have to remember more than 14 passwords on average, and increasingly complain about the inefficiency and complexity of the authentication experience. Clearly, the era of conventional passwords is ending, making room for the advent of biometrics, where users have the choice to either use their face or voice to access services.

While we are witnessing a growing demand for biometrics technology, the journey toward comprehensive, holistic acceptance of this approach remains gradual. When it comes to executing this new process, the change from passwords to biometrics can be

accomplished quickly and easily; the difficulty lies in getting people and organisations to make the transition.

This is where those closest to the solution, such as dealers and integrators, become critical in shifting the narrative. Password security systems have been relied on as the cornerstone of digital identity protection, leading many to assume they were a reliable safeguard. However, this perception contrasts with the reality faced by IT professionals, as a recent LastPass study revealed that 95% of experts view passwords as a substantial security risk to their organisations. This is a huge determining factor for those responsible for purchasing the best solutions to keep their company safe.

The burden of managing numerous passwords across different plat-

forms often leads users to unsafe practices, such as reusing passwords, which increases risk exposure for organisations. This scenario presents a unique opportunity for security professionals. By understanding these challenges, dealers and integrators can provide solutions that not only enhance security but also simplify user experience.

The compelling aspects of biometric solutions do not simply end with security. According to a 2017 Visa study, 70% of consumers found facial access more convenient than traditional methods, with 46% perceiving it to be more secure.

This represents a significant market opportunity for security professionals, as facial recognition technologies not only offer clients a more secure option, but a more user-friendly one. Organisations will be more prepared to meet the growing demands for heightened user experience and cater to the evolving needs of the new digital age.

The once-clear boundary set be-

customers and employees with heightened confidence and assurance. The transformative impact of biometrics transcends mere convenience; it reshapes how we navigate and secure our interconnected world.

Fingerprints have been used as legal signatures for decades and found their way to widespread smartphone use. However, their limitations have become increasingly evident. Fingerprint biometrics are familiar, but conditions like illness or manual labour can hinder their accuracy.

Additionally, fingerprint verification requires the user's physical presence, a limitation that doesn't apply to voice recognition. Standardisation in fingerprint biometrics raises concerns about data interoperability and privacy.

Fingerprint verification also lacks liveness detection, a key factor in any biometric scanning which combats presentation attacks by evaluating whether the sample was provided by a

level of reliability along with other benefits. They enhance privacy by preventing image reverse engineering and mitigate the risk of high-performance image capture for mass surveillance by operating only if the user has freely given approval before.

Security professionals must play a key role in influencing users to embrace this new era of passwordless biometrics to propel the widespread recognition of facial access technology.

As we prepare for a future without traditional passwords, security integrators must equip themselves with a comprehensive understanding of biometric technologies. Awareness of both the advantages and limitations of facial and voice access is key. They should grasp the inner workings of these systems and play a significant role in communicating this knowledge to businesses and users.

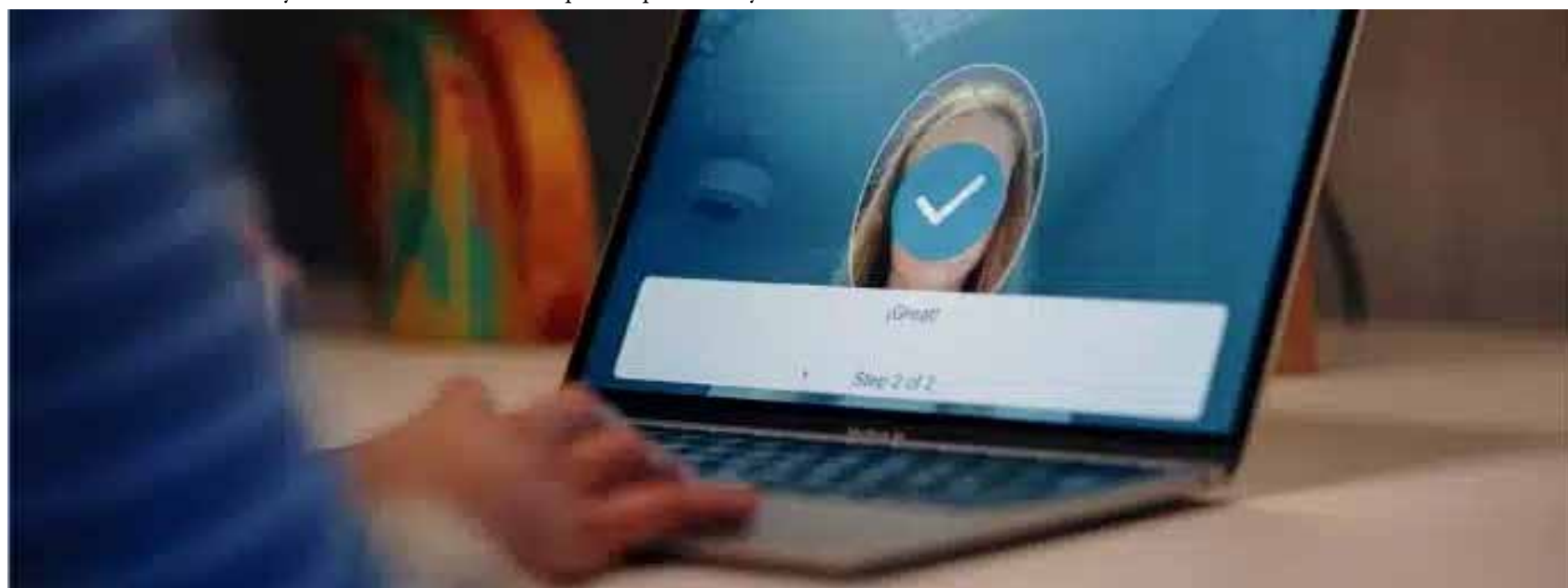
Further, security integrators should also guide businesses to recognize the inherent vulnerabilities of

authentication. Dealers offering biometric services must abide by these regulations for the betterment of the users and businesses.

Regulatory oversight has become imperative with the continuous advancement and global adoption of facial access technology. These regulations are in place to safeguard the collection and storage of biometric data, ensuring its secure handling and appropriate use.

The European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) recognizes biometric data as sensitive information, warranting strong protection. Similarly, the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) includes stringent provisions for managing biometric information.

The ISO/IEC 30107 framework, developed by the ISO and IEC, provides specific guidelines for detecting presentation attacks on biometric data from various sources. Integrators must ensure that their vendor's biometric



tween our physical and digital space is fading. As these two domains converge, the need for seamless interaction has surged. Biometric technology has emerged as the ideal candidate for dual, cross-realm authentication, driven by its commitment to robust security and stringent privacy standards.

A growing number of fields have embraced biometric solutions like facial and voice recognition systems. These technologies uniquely identify users with minimal room for error, making them invaluable tools in both digital and real-world scenarios.

For instance, take the application of facial access at venues. Its adoption has significantly reduced wait times, streamlining the time it takes for fans to reach the stadium. Moreover, businesses, financial institutions and government agencies are harnessing facial and voice recognition to authenticate

living human. In contrast, facial recognition, empowered by artificial intelligence algorithms and deep neural networks, offer an inclusive, contactless alternative. The inherent uniqueness of each individual's facial structure makes facial access universally applicable, independent of fingerprint variations.

These systems can recognize partially obscured faces, accommodating glasses or masks. They are also invaluable for visually impaired individuals and those with non-standard neck postures, as they don't require a specific front-facing position.

Moreover, facial recognition algorithms typically achieve high-performance accuracy, exceeding 90%, according to Security Industry Association (SIA) research, and continue improving. Despite some verification concerns, facial access provides a high

conventional passwords and why the pivot to facial access holds significant importance. The discourse surrounding biometrics must shift from "what we know" or "what we have" – the foundations of password authentication – to "who we are." Biometrics capitalises on our unique, unrepeatable characteristics, making it the most natural and secure way to establish identity.

In this transformative journey, it's crucial to safeguard biometric technology and strike a balance between efficiency and security. By embracing and promoting this technology and nurturing a deeper understanding, those who provide solutions become instrumental in shaping a passwordless world where security is elevated, and complexities minimised.

However, certain regulations must be implemented for biometric technology to become an enabler for safe

solutions are assessed and accredited by NIST.

NIST assesses biometric devices from different vendors, providing accuracy and performance ratings across diverse environments. These regulations collectively ensure the responsible and secure use of biometric data by businesses.

Navigating through the constantly changing digital environment, the move towards a future without passwords is both feasible and essential. The integration of facial and voice recognition solutions offers a secure, user-friendly and efficient method for verifying personal identity.

By focusing on user privacy and security, dealers can help businesses shift to a passwordless paradigm – setting the stage for a safer digital ecosystem, built on the principles of unique and non-replicable individual traits.



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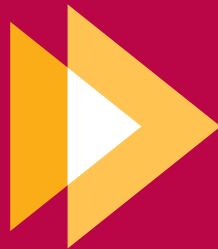
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Farnborough International  
Exhibition and Conference  
Centre, Farnborough, UK  
<https://www.securityandpolicing.co.uk/>



**DUBAI**  
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Intersec 2024  
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& Exhibition Centre  
Dubai UAE  
<https://intersec.ae.messe-frankfurt.com/dubai/en.html>



**INDIA**  
17-19 January, 2024  
9th Smart Cities India  
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<http://www.smartcitiesindia.com/>



**INDIA**  
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USA  
<https://www.iscwest.com>



**RUSSIA**  
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