Transportation Networks
and the Value of Intelligently Integrated Surveillance

"A new level of situational awareness and data collaboration is required for critical infrastructure. This can be delivered with intelligently integrated solutions."

Transportation – Connection and Protection

Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) is the "preparedness and response to serious incidents that involve the critical infrastructure" of a town, city or entire country – primarily relating to physical assets and data systems that allow urban environments to function.

With this definition it's clear to see why protecting transportation networks has long been held as a key focus for CIP planning.

Historically the sector has been highly segmented, with security planning concerning rail, road, air and ports all dealt with in isolation of each other but also in terms of their place within broader town or city operations.

With the 'Safe City' ethos becoming a dominant force in safety, security and planning, this is no longer the case. Now, a new level of situational awareness and data collaboration is required that is all encompassing.

For global surveillance business Synectics, this is where the intelligently integrated solutions they offer can play an extremely valuable role.

What is Intelligent Integration?

Intelligently integrated surveillance solutions, such as **Synectics' Synergy 3 platform**, enable visual and audio data, alarms and any number of application specific sub-systems (e.g. baggage scanning, check-in logs, ANPR systems) to be unified in a single monitoring and control environment.

Synergy 3 can be programmed to recognise anomalies and 'coincidences' by analysing and cross referencing data patterns from multiple geographical locations.

To demonstrate why this is important, imagine the following series of events. At a railway station, a staff member's access card is swiped on a day they were not scheduled to be working; perimeter cameras detect a broken down car blocking a key route into the station; a bag is left unattended at a busy platform for ten minutes.

Individually these items might not cause alarm but if they all happen within a short timeframe, these 'coincidences' could suggest imminent risk and be flagged as "investigation required".

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Cross Network Collaboration

As well as helping specific sites to achieve a greater level of awareness throughout their own environments, intelligently integrated surveillance also facilitates greater collaboration across different organisations. The following example is a feasible scenario:

Using a loitering detection solution – which can identify people or objects that remain in a specific position over a set time period (for example a busy concourse) - rail station security staff can identify a suspicious package and determine if it poses a legitimate threat. Staff can call up recent camera footage from the surrounding location to identify an individual who appeared to leave the item. At this stage the system prompts emergency response protocols to deal with the package (evacuation procedures, police notification, train operator notifications to deal with knock-on delays), while the individual is tracked departing the station in a black hatchback car and the number plate is reported to the city police force.

The police Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system detects the vehicle on a road approaching the city airport. As this occurs within a set distance of the airport's perimeter, an alert is automatically issued to security teams at terminal access points and also check-in teams, while the individual is located and apprehended.

The right systems used in the right way can greatly reduce the potential for 'data drop' between key transport infrastructure points.

Synectics Supporting Intelligent Integration

Synectics has been providing surveillance solutions for critical infrastructure and transportation for over 30 years.

Its integrated end-to-end solutions for transport hubs and public space applications, paired with its dedicated systems for on-vehicle applications, deliver a comprehensive solution ideally suited to meet site specific and collaborative city-wide surveillance needs.

Synectics' hardware and software products are capable of integrating with third party products (such as access control, perimeter detection, analytics software, etc.) to create flexible solutions that can easily evolve with changing demands. For existing systems, Synectics can integrate a broad range of legacy CCTV matrices, cameras and control systems with the latest technology and integrations to ensure that systems are brought up to date to meet current standards and requirements.

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