

Olympic effort

The eyes of the world will be on London for the 2012 Olympics.

Philippe Meleard looks at the main security challenges



THE STAGING OF THE 2012 OLYMPIC

Games in London will present UK public safety organisations with one of the biggest security challenges they have faced in recent years.

With 11,000 athletes and more than 500,000 spectators likely to descend on the Capital over a 16-day period, concern about their safety and also that of Londoners going about their routine business, remains high.

The fact that the 7/7 bombings occurred the day after the London bid win was a fitting reminder of the threat that such an event could pose to the safety and security of the city.

Despite the threat from terrorism and public order incidents associated with the Games, the UK and London already have unparalleled experience and expertise in proactive multi-agency policing at such high-profile events. The Metropolitan Police has earned an international reputation for excellence in policing and security at major public events (see p30).

It was involved in the seven nations' Olympic Security Advisory Group for the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Athens, so has expert knowledge of making a city a secure and welcoming place for this international sporting event.

JOINED-UP SECURITY

One key security challenge is to make sure that the relevant agencies communicate in a joined up way. With the threat likely to be more complex than ever before, the security response will be based around the use of advanced technologies and integrated information systems.

EADS Defence & Security has a wealth of experience in providing integrated security solutions to help ensure a co-ordinated approach to large event management. A trusted partner within the security and public safety market, the company provides solutions to customers worldwide in building up these capabilities.

Our Network Centric Operations Simulation (NetCOS) facility allows organisers to evaluate risks and to model potential scenarios in a 'virtual environment.'

The simulation suite is capable of playing a pivotal role in the successful planning and



execution of events such as the Olympics because of its ability to model individual or large crowd human behaviour.

The NetCOS core technologies encompass: Advancing the capability of computer based modelling and simulation; the emulation of human behaviours; and the integration of computer modelling and simulation with humans and real equipment.

There are obvious benefits associated with a simulated environment in that it can provide new ways of undertaking business, focusing on integration, and it is an excellent way to reduce both risk and cost.

Synthetic modelling also allows the undertaking of development that cannot be completed in any other way, allowing analysis that would, for practical purposes at least, prove otherwise impossible.

EADS Defence and Security 'Vision suite', is an innovative command and control system that is an element of the NetCOS international concept that provides seamless integration of the synthetic environment with a large range of sensors and live video feeds of areas that are being supervised.

This allows the ability to control crowd movement and other activities at events in stadiums, for example. The authorities can then use the system to fully visualise a highly

detailed simulation, making it an ideal solution for an event the size and scale of the Olympics.

EADS Defence & Security has also just recently finished taking part in a project to design, develop and test a representative version of a surveillance network based on visual sensors. This will enable it to be used to monitor any kind of area or infrastructure which can be threatened by natural or industrial disasters.

The DYNAMIC VISUAL NETWORKS (DYVINE) is an integrated European Research and Development Project partially funded by the European Commission. It is an ideal tool for use in large events such as the Olympics because it focuses on the integration of thousands of video sensors, fixed or mobile, *in situ* or airborne.

The technology has been trialled on three occasions. The first trial in Segrate, Italy, involved the stage of a traffic accident and a truck on fire in the centre of a city to show how local authorities, police, firefighters and civil protection staff could use the technology to manage a large scale emergency.

The need for public safety organisations to communicate securely during the event poses a major challenge, because each of these organisations will have different levels of information that they need to release to other partners.

With this in mind, EADS Defence & Security has developed the UK's first encryption device that allows a variety of organisations to communicate different levels of information on one secure network.

The device, called ECTOCRYPT, alleviates the problem of users requiring specialised terminals, or a secure environment to access secure communication into a fixed infrastructure. Users can communicate transparently at an unclassified level, and hold conversations up to top secret level over the one network.

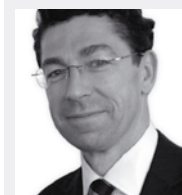
This could transform secure communication throughout the games and provide substantial cost savings to organisations.

Perhaps the biggest challenge is to get the balance right between staging a secure and incident-free games, while at the same time ensuring that these measures are not so intrusive that they affect the pleasure and enjoyment of the spectators who will flock to London to enjoy this experience.

An artist's impression of the 2012 Olympic Games in London

London 2012

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