

THE ASSOCIATION OF SECURITY CONSULTANTS

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Janet Smytherman : +44 (0)7970 058201 : janet@guildford19.fsnet.co.uk

www.securityconsultants.org.uk

ASC BUSINESS CLUB SEMINAR

“MAJOR COMMAND & CONTROL PROJECTS – PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS”

A capacity audience heard about the problems and solutions of a major command and control project at the recent Association of Security Consultants' (ASC) Business Club Meeting held at 33 Bury Street, St. James's, London.

Chief Superintendent Peter Goulding, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), gave a thought provoking and extremely entertaining presentation about the largest change programme ever undertaken by the MPS, namely, the C3i Programme, designed to deliver a 21st Century Command and Control infrastructure. Mr. Goulding stressed that it was all about “helping ordinary people do extraordinary things” and “the road to getting a more efficient and cost effective use of police resources”.

Mr. Goulding was assisted Richard Thorburn, Consultant to the Metropolitan Police.

Just what is C3i? C3i stands for Command, Control, Communication and Information.

“Every so often there is a major strategic change which accelerates the otherwise gradual evolution of public area CCTV in the UK”. (CCTV User Group)

That is how the CCTV User Group magazine, 'CCTV Image', described the arrival of the C3i programme to harmonise police and local authority control room operations in London.

The article went on to say:

“Although this is a local change, not a national one, it is the scale of the current undertaking and the strategic impetus that lies behind it, which reveals its real significance. It is the first time that so many local authority schemes have consented to be brought under a single operating regime, driven as never before by the input of the police”.

John Gurney, Managing Director of Frequentis UK Limited, gave a presentation from the Prime Contractor delivery perspective, focussing on Effective Project Management through Partnership. He covered the C3i project in terms of the Integrated Communications Control System and CCTV platform. John also mentioned that the company received the first commendation ever awarded to a company by the MPS, which acclaimed its successful delivery in just two years.

Andrew Denton from Meyertech, the sponsor for the meeting, gave in-depth information on the Video Matrix Design of the system.

Andrew explained that Meyertech's responsibility in the C3i programme was to build, deliver and commission the largest integrated video routing system the United Kingdom had ever seen and, according to Andrew, possibly the world.

He spoke about the entire C3i programme and how it involves several different projects, including ICCS (the Integrated Command and Communications System), the integration of 32 London Borough control rooms into a Central Communications Command unit.

The other projects referred to include the introduction of new services such as a 999 interpreting service, an internet-based frequently asked questions (Ask the Met), and the implementation of Airwave, the new national radio service mandated by government to all police forces in England, Wales and Scotland.

Andrew explored in detail the challenges Meyertech faced to deliver such a large and complex video matrix system which, he said, were many and not just limited to technical challenges to meet the requirements of the MPS. Andrew also indicated that since the project was originally awarded, a number of expansion phases have seen the system grow to well beyond its initial specified size.

He finished his presentation by an interesting insight into how to migrate an analogue system to a digital-IP system without the risks.

Tim Stanish followed next and provided details of Electrosonic's involvement in C3i. He explained about image distribution and display of a large number of real time video sources and the benefits of a multi system integrated user interface. He indicated that the next step could be distributing high-resolution images over the network using low bandwidth, real time and lossless.

Roy Sutherland (Deputy ASC Chairman) concluded the proceedings by thanking all those who had provided excellent presentations and, in particular, for Chief Superintendent Peter Goulding's candid input from the MPS, and all those who had attended.

Roy reminded the audience that the next ASC Business Club Seminar would be held on Thursday, 10 April 2008.

The ASC organises a number of prominent events during the year, which are of importance to both ASC members and others who are interested in security issues and technical innovations. As well as regular Business Club meetings, future events include the international showcase of the ASC, CONSEC, which will be held on 06 November 2008 at the RAF Museum, Hendon.

Further details from info@securityconsultants.org.uk.

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