

NEWS IN BRIEF

Salford CCTV system

A system developed by Salford City Council to give police and other emergency services access to CCTV systems operated by public and private bodies is now being marketed to other authorities in the UK. The system developed with Cadcorp incorporates more than 600 CCTV cameras in the Salford area. One of the most popular features on the system is the routing application which allows users to track an incident from one location to another via the camera network.

Portable custody suite

RED Box has developed a police custody and interview suite product to work with its command and control system. The Red Box Custody & Interview Suite can be delivered as a static network product for custody and criminal investigation workers or as a portable crime scene and witness system on a touch screen monitor. Both versions of the system allow users to create digital markers by touching the screen to highlight areas of interest. The Red Box Custody & Interview Suite is designed to be compatible with a range of NPIA publications.

Digital radio tests

THE Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Association has completed the first DMR Interoperability (IOP) test session which took place in Milan, Italy on April 27-28, 2010 in its efforts to prove that digital mobile radio can be an open, multi-vendor technology. DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) is an open digital radio standard for professional mobile radio users. Tests included voice calls (individual, group, broadcast and emergency calls), call alerts, radio check, remote monitoring, emergency alarm, radio enable and disable.

NYPD crime centre on the map

Serious crime facility gets presidential visit in wake of bomb attempt

PRESIDENT Barack Obama visited the New York City Police Department (NYPD) Real Time Crime Center last month to get a view of the response and investigation into the May 1 attempted bombing.

The \$11 million crime centre is designed to improve crime-fighting effectiveness for serious crimes by using the latest technology to scan data collected by the department and search for patterns.

Staffed by 43 detectives and civilian analysts, the centre employs Prochart visualization from ABM America to show hidden or indirect relationships between incidents and offenders across the city's boroughs.

Satellite imagery of the city is used with its link analysis capacity to track suspects to their known addresses and point police officers to locations where they are most likely to flee.

The centre also has a searchable data warehouse of crime

records including records dating back to 1995.

The visualization technology is used to report incidents and link descriptive details associated with the suspect and incident location. In addition, 175 wireless laptops allow detectives access to the data while they are on the move.

Detectives, who have access to the centre 24 hours a day, seven days a week, are currently investigating the attempted car bombing of Times Square in New York on May 1.

A shopowner reported smoke coming out of a Nissan Pathfinder vehicle parked in Times Square which was found by police officers to contain propane, gasoline and fireworks.

Although the device had apparently started to detonate, there was no explosion.

Cameras track motorists from space to monitor average speeds on the road

SPEED cameras which can track vehicles over a long distance are being trialled by Devon and Cornwall Police.

SpeedSpike can read number plates and then communicate by satellite with other similar cameras to work out the vehicle's average speed.

The system is similar to those used to monitor the average speed of cars through roadworks.

Similar systems made by other companies are already in use on some roads in the UK but, if approved, SpeedSpike could drive the cost of the systems down and they make them more affordable to police forces.

The cameras, which are capable of reading number plates in

the dark, use similar technology to ANPR (automatic numberplate reading) systems.

However, although information on speeding vehicles is retained, data gathered on law-abiding vehicles is not held – eliminating any privacy fears.

Devon and Cornwall Police have been using the cameras on the A374 between Antony and Torpoint in Cornwall.

Supt Tim Swarbrick, chairman of the force's road safety partnership, said: 'Average speed recorders have proved to be very successful in roadworks on the major trunk roads.

'They have reduced injury and deaths and we would like to replicate this positive effect on more

rural roads.'

The equipment is supplied by PIPS Technology Ltd, an American-owned business with a base in Hampshire.