

## Smart electronic security system saves AB Connectors £40,000 a year



*A remote location, an access road through the site that is used by another company, a nearby railway line and a housing estate. Not ideal when trying to minimise the number of on-site security personnel whilst still reducing trespassing and vandalism. But AB Connectors found their solution through intelligent use of CCTV, Access Control and Intruder systems and have saved £40,000 a year since the equipment was installed.*

AB Connectors, part of the TT electronics PLC, is situated just outside Cardiff in Wales. As its name suggests, it used to focus on making connectors but has now moved into fabricating complete systems, including harnessing for military and traction applications.

The AB Connectors site is situated in a rather unusual position. Not only is it located in a rather remote part of the country, but it is also right next to a railway line and a housing estate. To complicate matters further, it has an access road running through the centre of the complex that is used by another company. Understandably, these factors have created security issues that AB Connectors were keen to solve. Fortunately, IDS Security Systems Ltd were on hand to help them.

IDS Security Systems Ltd have been working with AB Connectors for a number of years and have already fulfilled the security requirements of four AB sites. Additionally, they've formed a valuable part of AB's risk management team, adding their knowledge and expertise to ensure AB have the most effective security solutions possible. "We've always been very satisfied with their work and their commitment to projects," says Harvey Preston, Managing Director of AB Connectors "so it was an easy decision to use them for this project."

The Abercynon site had been experiencing various minor problems involving vandalism and trespassing, so Mr Preston started looking for a security solution with a two-fold aim – to tighten up security and to reduce the cost of man guarding.

IDS Security Systems Ltd discussed AB Connectors' requirements with them and then carried out a full site analysis. Assessments were carried out both day and night to ensure that good CCTV images would be received under any lighting conditions. "We needed to ensure that every camera was placed in precisely the right position," explains Tim Murray, Sales Director of IDS Security Systems Ltd. "This thorough site

examination is typical to us and allows us to fully understand and meet the clients requirements.”



A solution was decided upon that used a selection of high-speed dome cameras, static cameras, covert cameras, external movement detectors, Intruder alarms and lighting. All these systems lead back to the control room, where a Columbus Triplex 320 GB hard disk with keyboard and joystick is housed. The images are then transmitted to Farsight Plc. in Peterborough via a ten channel Apro FastVu transmitter. From there, Farsight monitor the building out of hours and take any necessary action if there is a disturbance. Scorpion Security, a local company, has been employed to undertake lock-down and opening of the site and to attend any incidents that occur.

Two KD6 Ultrak fully-functional PTZ dome cameras, sited at both ends of the front façade of the main building, have been programmed to patrol the frontage in tandem with Redwall LRP100Q movement sensors and powerful infra-red lighting. When the sensors detect any motion they enable the cameras to switch instantly to a view of the activity, simultaneously sounding an audible signal in the control room.

“The access road through the site was a cause for concern, “says Mr Murray, “but we analyzed the situation and came up with a solution that suited everyone”. A gate system was set up at both ends of the site where the road entered and exited the premises, which would allow authorised cars through either to the AB Connectors car park or onward to the properties beyond. As an additional precaution, cameras were used to track and observe any cars driving through the main gate that were not registered with AB Connectors.

A full height enclosed turnstile has been installed in the 900m-long perimeter fence at the point where a pathway leads from nearby housing down to the industrial estate, which forms an entry route for staff approaching on foot. A Paxton Compact access system with metal proximity fob readers allows ingress/egress through the turnstile to those personnel with security clearance. “The whole point of the system was that everyone on-site had permission to be there – the use of access control allowed us to control this while still allowing people to move about freely,” says Mr Murray.

The front Fully Functional dome cameras have so far picked up wayward personnel driving cars erratically, and the system in its entirety has deterred a number of would-be illegal site entrants. Farsight sends faxes to AB Connectors the following morning if there have been any attempted break-ins or other notable activity. If anyone is actually caught on site, challenge horns allow Farsight to issue a verbal



warning, something that has already proved to be a considerable deterrent. It is also possible to record 30 days of video footage on the hard drive of the Columbus Triplex DVR. Exact times of incidents can be logged so it is possible to review the footage easily.

Mr Preston is extremely pleased with the results so far. "It has given us much better control of the business. We know what's going on. It has saved £40,000 a year for the two years it has been in operation," he says.

IDS Security Systems chose equipment from Norbain SD because of the quality of service and variation of stock, which Tim Murray believes to be 'second to none'. "We know it's reliable, we know we will get back-up and delivery whenever we want,

the quality of the product is consistent and if anything failed we can get it replaced, there is no argument, and the prices are competitive."

This second anniversary marks an important key point in the deliverables from the project, and Mr Preston says it was important that the system had to pay for itself in under two years to satisfy parent TT electronics Plc. In this respect, and in terms of increased security, the system has passed with flying colours.

### **About IDS Security Systems Ltd**

IDS Security Systems Ltd emerged from a partnership formed in 1991 to address the security needs of business and home by providing comprehensive electronic security systems with the emphasis on CCTV, Access Control and Intruder Alarm Systems.

[www.ids-security.co.uk](http://www.ids-security.co.uk)