

## Security Equipment Enables Town Centre Car Park To Gain Approval Of Safer Parking Scheme



*When Town Centre Securities Plc (TCS), a property investment and development company, decided to build a new multi-story car park at the Piccadilly Basin, Manchester, they resolved to follow a scheme initiated to improve the security of vehicles within the parking environment.*

The scheme, introduced in 1992 by the Association of Chief Police Officers, was initially launched as the Secured Car Parks scheme and then re-introduced in 2004 as the Safer Parking Scheme. It was brought about to encourage those responsible for car parks to improve security standards as a means of reducing criminal activity, the fear of crime and the perception of crime in all car parks and vehicle retention areas. The initiative is primarily aimed at the management of criminal behaviour within the parking environment, and hence requires owners/operators to adopt an active management strategy to ensure that there is minimal occurrence of crime.

The planned expansion and progression of TCS's car park division was essentially aimed towards the quality end of the market, with a heavy focus on customer service combined with technology. The desired result was to help ensure a comfortable, safe and secure environment for TCS's customers and employees. TCS started the search for an installer able to design a CCTV system compliant with the scheme and, following a personal recommendation, chose Leeds based Security Design and Installation Ltd.



“We expected a high quality from our contractors and suppliers,” states Russell Hancock, Operations Manager – Car Parks, TCS. “It was important that we chose a quality local supplier who could service our needs nationally whilst at the same time provide cutting edge technology at competitive prices. Security Design and Installation certainly do this and more.”



He continues, “The whole package that Security Design and Installation provide is excellent, from initial discussions, quotes, H&S, legal requirements, liaising with other contractors, quality of equipment, service and costings through to handover, training and forward planning.”

Mr Hancock adds that, going forward, the long term partnership is also very important as not having to “reinvent the wheel for every acquisition” can and will save a lot of time and money as both parties know the expectations, standards and requirements.

As part of the design, recorded and monitored images were to be a priority, with future expansion and operator ease of use being a major consideration. In addition to on-site monitoring, the system had to be designed in such a way as to allow remote monitoring at TCS’s control room in Leeds while still allowing the directors and managers use of the system remotely as an off-site management tool.

Security Design & Installation Ltd knew that it was imperative to use a reliable supplier and, because they had a good and long standing relationship with Norbain SD Ltd., they decided to choose them for the project. “We have extensively used Norbain as a supplier in the past,” explains Steve Bartram, Managing Director of Security Design & Installation Ltd. “The products used for this installation were chosen because of their high image quality and proven track record for reliability. That, coupled together with competitive pricing and extended warranties, made the Vista products an obvious choice for this installation”



Following discussions with the Greater Manchester Police, a system was designed to provide facial recognition of any person entering or exiting the site. In addition, it would record all vehicle movements in and out of the car park.

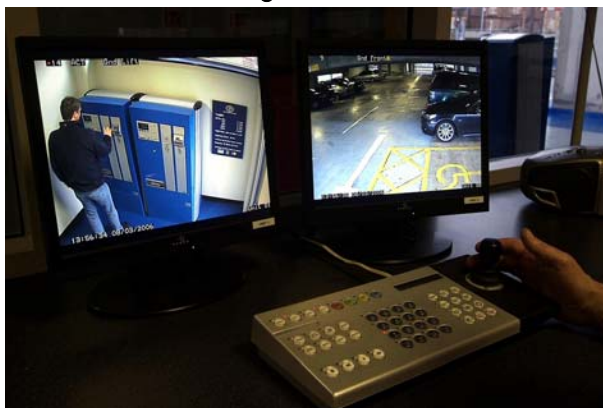


There were a number of factors to take into account when installing the equipment. One of the main considerations was the height of the CCTV cameras. They were mounted at a relatively low height and were, therefore, susceptible to possible vandalism. The solution was provided by Vista, Norbain's own-brand range of cameras. Twenty-nine high-resolution Vista VWRD4V9D/N vandal resistant

colour/mono cameras were chosen to view the lift lobbies, stairwells and each parking level. Additionally, three VPD-3VR-W-C fully functional, vandal resistant dome cameras were chosen to provide general surveillance of the external perimeter and main entrances.

As an additional benefit, the cameras have been interfaced into the ZEAG car park management system. This allows them to automatically display any of the on-site help points that have been activated by a member of the public.

### On-Site Monitoring



In order to facilitate on-site monitoring, all 32 cameras were connected to two 16 way DM DS2A digital recorders, complete with DVD archiving for copying any incident onto DVD for evidential purposes. The new Digi-Sprite, compatible to BS8414 standards, encompasses both a Digital Recorder and an alarm transmission unit. The images are viewed on two Vista 17" high TFT monitors while selection of the

cameras and control of the PTZ dome cameras was achieved by using a DM DSKBS3 keyboard. A 1MB SDSL broadband link was installed on-site to allow high definition remote monitoring.

### Off-Site Monitoring

A network was set up by TCS's IT Department to allow authorised directors and managers to remotely access the system via PC. DMs 'NetVu Observer', a multi-site, multi-use software, was installed to allow for real-time monitoring and control of the system, including the facility to retrieve any archived incident.

The Monitoring Centre in Leeds also needed to be able to access the system, but because of the number of cameras and likely future expansion of the system, a different interface needed to be designed. A BBV Pick-a-Point system was selected, and purchased through Norbain to provide the Monitoring Centre with a Touch screen controlled virtual matrix including graphical maps, allowing selection and control of several sites via a high-speed broadband connection. Vista 20" LCD monitors were chosen to work with the system due to their slim line design and high definition picture quality.

A Vista TFT spot monitor has also been installed on the control desk where it is used for general monitoring and as an alarm monitor which automatically displays the relevant camera image following an alarm activation. The operator then has the ability to transmit two-way audio to the site, providing a fully integrated off-site monitoring and alarm receiving system.



"I must admit that when I walked onsite after completion, the system far exceeded my expectations," compliments Mr Hancock. "The cameras were so small and cleverly fitted that I thought they were something else! I expected the big oblong box with a bracket and big lens like Big Brother! Indeed, we are currently looking at adding a further 6 sites within the next 5 months, all with state-of-the-art

CCTV, all linked to a control centre from a duplicated system on site and, may I add, viewable from my laptop remotely at no extra cost."

### **About Security Design and Installation Ltd**

Security Design & Installation Ltd was formed in 1998 and has considerable experience in the security field, designing and project managing systems from the smallest to the most technically complex systems available.

Specialising in CCTV, Access Control and Perimeter detection systems, they are also able to install Intruder Alarm systems, complying with NACOSS, DD243 and local police authority policies and Fire Alarm systems, complying with BS5839.

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