

# ISM... Leading the Way with the Changing Face of Custody and Detention

The holding of terrorist suspects and the privileges afforded to them while in detention has become a hugely contentious issue recently and one that has grabbed many headlines. And with the drive for longer detention periods, coupled with the review of the government's terrorism laws and subsequent recommendations from Lord Carlisle, the spotlight upon terrorist suspects and the conditions in which they are detained is not likely to disappear in the near future.

With legislation now in place allowing police to hold terrorist suspects for almost a month without charge, it is both the cells in which they are held as well as the suspects themselves that are now coming under scrutiny. The threat of suicide is ever apparent for terrorist suspects and so it is essential that powerful and intuitive monitoring systems are put in place to minimise the likelihood of such an outcome. What's more, these systems need to be simple to operate and interrogate and yet highly sophisticated at the same time.

## When the Met Came Calling

Whilst refurbishing one of its terrorist holding facilities, the Metropolitan Police Service took a proactive approach to the recommendations made by Lord Carlisle's human rights committee, and installed a number of features to the existing cells including an in-cell entertainment system controlled from the cell call unit within the cell. This comprised of a robust TV monitor mounted within a stainless steel frame flush above the cell door from where it was possible to view scheduled films and audio only channels by selecting the channel from the cell call audio unit.

## ISM was the Strategic Partner of Choice for this Innovative Project

The Met. chose **Integrated Security Manufacturing (ISM)** to supply this system. ISM are a world renowned strategic supplier with the proven capability to develop a system that can meet the exacting standards and specifications. ISM is



increasingly the preferred strategic partner of many of the police authorities within the United Kingdom. Now in their 21st year of trading, they are a highly respected, world leading manufacturer and inventor of graphical security management solutions, encompassing alarm monitoring, digital video security and sophisticated building security management systems.

**In recent years, ISM has developed and patented an integrated security management system specifically aimed at police custody.** Their Genesys system includes an auditable audio cell call system with tagged cell visits and cell watch alerts. The cell call, CCTV, digital recording, intercoms and affray systems are all integrated onto an easy-to-use graphical front end system using ISM's Migrating3+ patented technology. In the event of one PC failing, the next PC takes over seamlessly – thereby offering high levels of resilience.

"Integration also provides interoperability," says Stephen Smith, ISM Sales and Marketing Director, "and in the event of an affray being activated, the CCTV image of the alarm area will be presented on a large screen. There is an automatic annunciation to staff outside the suite and indicator lights guide the attending staff to the correct location. It also highlights the area of the alarm on a graphic map, and of equal importance, it provides clear instructions for the operator."

Continues Smith, "Our systems have been chosen not only for standard size custody suites for authorities such as Thames Valley Police, but also for the larger custody suites such as the 50 cell facility for Staffordshire Constabulary and the 60 cell Bridewell facility for South Wales Police."

## The Benefits of Integration

For busy custody environments, amalgamating systems together offers massive benefits and it is ISM's pioneering approach to system integration that really makes them stand head and shoulders above their competitors. As Smith points out, ISM invests 15% of their gross annual turnover in R&D, way exceeding the industry average of 7%. "We are now developing integrated systems that include 'follow me lights' to give a clear indication for officers to follow when an affray

strip is activated. Or, it can provide buttons that only become active when an affray strip has been activated to allow officers to get into the suite quickly," he comments.



## Genesys and Beyond

Within the next phase of development, ISM will integrate the booking-in systems to enable real joined up IT. This will allow basic information to be populated within Genesys (ISM's patented front end control system, renowned throughout the world for combining high levels of integration and flexibility with ease of operator use) providing details of the suspects being watched, the violent nature of a detainee and any health risks that need to be taken into consideration. "Watch information can be automatically or specifically entered in to Genesys, and this will be transferred on to the custody record and stamped with the exact time and date that the officer was at the cell. This alleviates any doubt as to when the watch was carried out," concludes Smith.

For further information please contact:

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