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Light years ahead in sensing and security

Media Release

For immediate release

September, 2010

Naval facility presented special challenges for security suppliers

A critical naval manufacturing and repair facility presented some unique challenges to Future Fibre Technologies (FFT), which was commissioned to protect the site's perimeter. As well as the site's location on the waterfront, the facility is adjacent to other large scale engineering facilities, at which heavy machinery causes significant amounts of noise and vibrations from the work being carried out, adding to the ground movement created by its own work.

Well known developer, manufacturer and installer of fibre-optic intrusion detection systems, FFT overcame these challenges by installing a combination of its newest security system, Secure Zone™, and its flagship product Secure Fence™ at the site to deliver the best possible protection at the lowest possible cost.

Like all FFT's products, Secure Zone and Secure Fence are equipped with FFT's patented ARaD technology to overcome the traditional problems of nuisance alarms that are so common with current solutions. The technology uses signature recognition and advanced learning algorithms to "know" the difference between a vibration caused by repair work at the site or at an adjacent site, for example, and an attempted intrusion.

When ground movement can be caused by any number of factors including hydraulic heavy machinery lifting equipment, re-fuelling, rail transport of newly manufactured parts, as well as and painting and blasting of vessels, the ability of FFT's system to separate intrusion attempts from the normal running of the yard was a significant advantage.

Another challenge for the FFT team was the fact that the facility is surrounded by sections of removable security fencing, necessary for the movement of the parts around the facility.

Alec Owen, International Client Manager at FFT, says Secure Zone's ability to select operational zones overcame this problem.

"When fence sections are removed to allow large prefabricated sections of vessels to be moved into and out of the assembly facility, the sensor cable is simply unplugged for that particular zone and the fence section moved," Mr Owen says. "All the other sections remain fully operational."

"The Secure Zone system is configured so there are16 independent hardware zones, each up to 500 m, which can be activated or de-activated independently," he said. "The other advantage is that we can deliver superior value-for-money due to the easy installation process."

Simple and intuitive to use, Secure Zone has the ability to interface and activate CCTV systems, lighting, gates, email, plus a broad range of external devices and systems.

In the event of an intrusion at the naval facility, the area or zone in which an alarm is triggered is instantly displayed at the security centre and the event is automatically logged into a secure database. Simultaneously,

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the alarm signal is sent in real time via contacts to the control system, which in turn activates the CCTV system, allowing security staff to quickly assess and react appropriately to the threat.

The system requires no electronics or power, and is easy and economical to install or expand. There is no field maintenance, and the fibre optic cable is unaffected by RFI, EMI, lightning or storms.

Its fibre optic connections can be all mechanical, so no special fibre optic skills are required, making installation even easier for systems integrators.

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