

# Security when needed the most

The safety and security requirements in healthcare are unique. Hospitals are dynamic, stressful environments, where there is a high volume of people circulating, staff trying to do their jobs and expensive equipment that needs to be in the right place at the right time.

In common with any other public space, you will find CCTV cameras, fire alarms and voice alarms as well as access control systems. What differs is that the design and location of security and safety measures have to be carefully tailored to the needs of the hospital.

Jean-Paul Frenett, Marketing Executive at Access Control Technology (ACT) comments, "Access control has become absolutely essential in most healthcare environments, to both protect precious assets and to ensure only qualified or suitable staff enter certain areas. Modern access control software will also provide you with a full log of events on your system, so you can review who has accessed various areas and when. This can be linked to your CCTV system, so if you wanted to review the CCTV at a certain door during an event, such as someone forcing open a door, the information is at your fingertips. For the security team in any secure facility, the ability for the access control system to give live alerts and updates is essential, allowing staff to react to any incident as quickly as possible."

Indeed, Johan Åkesson Business Development Manager at Axis, says that there is a growing trend to link all security cameras to IP networks to allow for remote access. He explains, "Conversion is happening all over the world. In projects where there are already many analogue cameras installed, we provide convertor encoders that allow the cameras to be linked to the IP network. Although you cannot expect an improved resolution on the image captured by these analogue cameras, at least you can access them and adding cameras to the IP network is simple and cost effective."

Video encoders, such as the Axis M7014 and the P7214 - four-channel video encoders and the P7216, which offers 16-channels, can simplify migration to network video without upgrading existing camera systems. These products provide edge storage through microSDHC memory cards slots and support all types of analogue cameras including PTZ (pan/tilt/zoom) and PTZ domes.

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Digitisation is the way forward. IP cameras and networks allow for video analytics and this can be used in the healthcare sector to find patterns, visitors' flows and improve the whole environment. Also, the use of digital video recorders (DVR), cloud storage and IP HD cameras, is on the up in the healthcare sector.

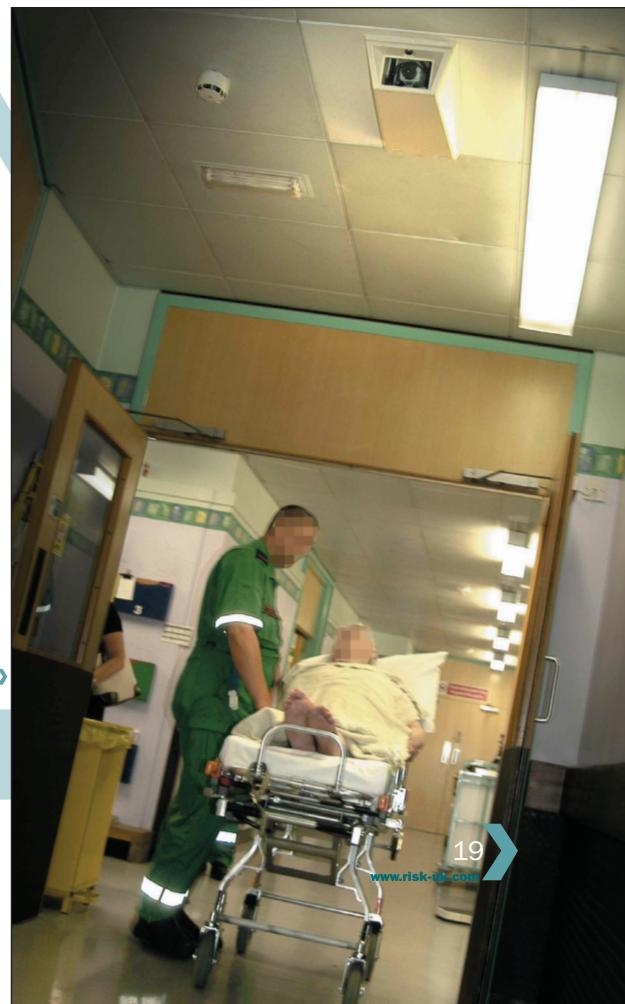
Pauline Norstrom, COO at Dedicated Micros says, "We see our NVR Media Server and SmartVu HD cameras being used in this sector. These are suited to healthcare because they have the ability to show high definition images for identification of people."

Dedicated Micros servers and cameras, as well as all its NetVu Connected products, can integrate video servers, cameras and domes, management systems, mobile viewing devices and video walls together without the costly impact of significant integration time.

Pauline adds, "A shared user interface helps minimise operator training whilst powerful features such as direct configuration of PTZ cameras and domes from connected DVRs helps reduce installation time providing benefits to both end user and installer-integrator. For larger projects we offer a Cloud NVR architecture for a 'fail-safe,' secure IP video solution." On the prevention of fire, Dedicated Micros has its FireVu for video smoke detection.

Clym Brown, Marketing Director at Texecom explains that the Klaxon fire evacuation signalling equipment is widely used in healthcare. Brown explains, "In public access areas, effective fire evacuation systems assume no knowledge or training with regards to fire evacuation messages, so any messages need to be clear and unambiguous. One type of product that we do see being used in hospitals is our voice evacuation sounders. These products complement a fire evacuation tone with pre-programmable voice messages, clearly notifying visitors and staff of the type of

*Geny Caloisi looks at security solutions in the healthcare sector*





emergency in order to provide safe evacuation of the building."

Texecom brand electronic security equipment is used in hospitals for the protection of sensitive areas such as IT server rooms, medical supply areas and panic alarms for members of staff - security measures play an essential role in preventing staff assaults.

"Given that hospitals are permanently occupied, most areas do not require alarm systems but there are often requirements for access control," says Brown and adds, "Our security control systems have integration capabilities with access control providers, noticeably TDSi, which allows personnel to use their ID badges for both access and setting / un-setting of alarmed areas."

### Who are you?

We are unique individuals and, when it comes to healthcare, matching the right records with the right patient, or allowing in the right personnel to the correct area, can be a matter of life and death.

To identify the individual, there are in the market several automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) technologies including: barcodes, biometrics, iris recognition, RFID and the latest vein scanner.

Vein Scanner is a Fujitsu product for biometric identification using the veins of the person's hand. Chetan Vasudev, Director Security Systems Technology, explains, "The sensor is non-intrusive. The person only needs to hover the hand over the scanner, so no need to touch it thus avoiding hygiene issues. The device is small enough to be mounted on laptops and can be used for access to patient identification, signing in for staff and to stop fraud."

Having the right people in the right areas will also help ensuring that equipment is correctly handled and doesn't get lost. ACT's Frenett says, "Securing equipment can be controlled in two stages. Firstly, access to areas with such equipment should be limited to trained or permitted staff only using control on entry doors. For more extreme situations, passive or active RFID tags can be used to broadcast the

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location of an asset."

### Care from the cradle to old age

Two demographic groups are in greater need of special care: babies and the elderly. The use of security technology can provide peace of mind and allow caring relatives to be 'virtually' there.

In the case of premature babies, cameras are being used to keep an eye on the child when the parent can't be physically present. An example is the use of the Axis 210 camera at the Salvator-St. Ursula hospital in Hasselt, Belgium. These cameras provide superior quality in comparison to webcams and there is no need for using a PC locally, as you would with a webcam.

At the other end of the scale are the elderly. According to research by the International Longevity Centre, in 1950, male life expectancy at 65 was 11 years. In the last sixty years this figure has doubled to 22, and by 2050 it will have risen to 26. People living longer than ever before, means that new measures have to be put in place to cater for them.

Some seniors might have special needs or restricted mobility, but they might still want to keep their independence. This is where telehealth and telecare can be appropriate solutions. IP networks are essential in these cases allowing not only cameras but also other household appliances to be integrated into the network.

Kenton Madge, Commercial Director UK & Ireland, Stanley Healthcare says, "In hospitals, we provide solutions for fall monitoring for the elderly. We also provide real time location solutions for tracking people and assets."

According to our experts, the key to ensure a safe and secure healthcare environment, resides in the integration of security technologies, whether it's access control, AIDC or object tracking. With an expanding population and new needs, this integration has to go beyond the hospital walls and empower people to live their lives independently for longer while still feeling secure and cared for.

