

# HOMELAND SECURITY

## Pickel, Brijot answer airport security prayers in Rome

### Successful trial of GEN2 system at Ciampino airport points to future of people screening

By Steven Sachoff, editor

ROME—Aeroporti di Roma, the operator of Rome's airports, had a tough condition when it went looking to tighten safety: increase the level of security without adding any time to the passenger screening process. Systems integration firm Pickel Security has managed to meet that demand by tapping Brijot's GEN2 screening system.

Based on passive millimeter wave technology that "sees" concealed objects regardless of their composition, Brijot's GEN2 represents a groundbreaking solution for airport security, according to Pickel CEO Boaz Harpaz. "We know the market. We have a strong research department that attends all the security shows and visits factories around the world, and there's really not any other solution out there that offers the full answer that Brijot does," Har-

paz told *Security Systems News Europe*.

The metal detector was good for the "previous war" in which traditional knives or guns were used for hijacking, said Harpaz, but today's weapons of choice—ceramic knives or guns or liquid explosives—or those of tomorrow, can't be detected by this old technology. Brijot fills this dangerous gap, according to Harpaz, without adding any additional time to the screening process itself.

Pickel completed a successful trial operation of the GEN2 system for Aeroporti di Roma at the Ciampino at the end of April, and officials have been won over. "Everyone is skeptical at the beginning that we can add this

kind of effective security without lengthening the screening process because it's like a dream that we could meet both points successfully," said Harpaz.

The new system will make its official debut at the new Terminal 5 at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, which handles high-risk flights to the U.S. and Israel. Once deployed there, roll-outs should continue to other terminals and airports across



Boaz Harpaz with Brijot's GEN2 unit.

Italy. "We're starting discussions with [Milan airport] Malpensa and Bologna," said Harpaz, adding that he had just fielded a call from the Brindisi airport, which wanted to know if it was true that such a system really existed.

Besides not adding any time to the screening process, the system also doesn't take up any more of a

footprint than what already exists at the screening point and doesn't require any additional personnel for operation, Brijot's EMEA marketing director Gary Tryon explained.

The system is normally set up so that when a passenger walks through the field of view of a metal detector he is imaged, front and back, by the millimeter wave camera, with that image fed to a monitor that can be immediately read by the screeners.

Tryon has been busy crisscrossing Europe, recently visiting Belgium, the UK, France and Holland, with the goal of finding channel partners like Pickel that understand their territories and can teach Brijot how to do business through a partnership. "We build the product, and we need companies like Pickel to go out there and be our champions," said Tryon. *SSNE*

## BRIEFS

### O'Connor's, COE win Singapore port order

LEEDS, UK—COE Group, a developer and supplier of integrated IP video surveillance systems based here, has won a major order with its local partner, systems integrator O'Connor's, to completely renew the operational and security video systems of the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA).

The order for the PSA, the biggest container transshipment hub in the world, involves a 1,100-camera system that is to be largely installed by the end of 2008, with potential for future expansion.

The contract is the biggest win for COE since 2004.

The COE system O'Connor's will provide is an integrated IP surveillance solution which includes COE's VMS control room software and X-Net Video Intelligence video content analysis. Video transmission, camera control and redundancy are provided by COE's H.264 codecs and COE's X-Net fiber transmission system.

The X-Net Video Intelligence system is the result of a partnership with video content analysis specialist Agent-VI.

## Precise Biometrics adds to Middle East order

LUND, Sweden—Precise Biometrics has received an order for hardware worth SEK 2.3m (EUR 246,000) in a Match-on-Card project, the company announced in late May.

The deal represents a follow-up order for an existing customer in the Middle East and is part of a larger order comprising both hardware and Precise Match-on-Card licenses.

For the new order, the company will deliver its Precise 200 MC, a combined fingerprint and smart card reader that will be used in a government ID card project and will be used together with the Precise Match-on-Card technology, which involves both storing and matching fingerprints on a smart card.

## GE Security launches interoperability initiative

By Steven Sachoff, editor

BRADENTON, Fla.—Continuing its push to deliver increasingly integrated security solutions, GE Homeland Protection, a business of GE Security, has launched a strategic initiative to promote greater interoperability among security products globally that aims to create a free and open security sensor communication protocol.

The cornerstone of GE's effort is a software communication module called Detection Systems Fusion Protocol (DSFP). An open protocol, DSFP could be adopted by any manufacturer to allow their security products plug-and-play connections to DSFP-powered networks.

While the concept of sensor fusion is not new, GE's approach is unique in that it would essentially allow the data collected by one sensor to influence or affect the "decisions" or behavior of another sensor linked to it in a network, according to Yotam Margalit, director of interoperability at GE Homeland Protection.

Outlining a possible scenario, Margalit imagined a car pulling into a parking garage at an airport. Captured by video surveillance, the car could be checked

against a central records point like the Department of Motor Vehicles. In the event of something suspicious, it would be assigned a "score" slightly to the negative side that would be conveyed to other points along the subject's security pathway, as he reached a check-in kiosk or biometric identification point, for example, drawing additional scrutiny there. In the event of further flags, scrutiny would intensify at points such as baggage screening, and on down the security chain.

"The idea is that you have a DSFP communication protocol in every one of the sensors that follows the passenger from the moment they enter the system until they're finally sitting on the train or plane," said Margalit. "All this communication makes the system more refined, adding to the probability of detection while decreasing false alarms," he added, noting that this has applications beyond aviation or transport, to things like government building, prison or event venue security.

In order to advance the goal of making DSFP available in a package for any third party that wants to turn its sensor



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## Westminster Group wins EUR 3m Sudan contract

By Steven Sachoff, editor

JUBA, Sudan—UK-based systems integration firm Westminster Group has won a contract to carry out extensive security upgrades at the Juba airport in Southern Sudan worth USD 4.7m (EUR 3m), the company announced in late April.

The contract is right in line with Westminster's area of expertise, which consists of focusing on niche areas and niche products and services in niche areas of the world, according to Westminster CEO Peter Fowler. "We focus on things like long range detection, perimeter protection, pipeline security, in areas of the world where there's a need for high security but not a very sophisticated or mature indigenous security infrastructure," said Fowler.

The Juba order involves the installation of perimeter fencing around the entire airport facility along with a specialist detection system mounted along the 12 kilometers of fencing powered by a fiber system that requires no power in the field and which can detect anyone attempting to cut, lift or climb the fence, Fowler explained.

Surveillance for both the airfield and terminal itself is also part of the project, along with a range of screening and scan-

ning equipment for passengers, baggage and cargo. "It's an integrated solution tied together through a command and control center which is expandable as the airport grows," said Fowler.

The finalization of the Juba deal comes as 2008 shapes up to be a very good year for Westminster. Results released this April for the company's performance last year showed revenues of GBP 2.7m, an increase of 71 percent over the previous year, while gross profit was up by over 35 percent to GBP 979,000.

Part of the company's success is due to its business model, which is based on establishing a solid agent network in the far-flung countries in which it operates. "These agents are quite critical because they provide in-country knowledge, intelligence and logistics when we send goods or have people traveling there, and they're also our local labor source, so that makes us a very scaleable business," explained Fowler.

The company has been busy



Peter Fowler

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