

comPRESSING ISSUE?

Security managers must switch to uncompressed systems or risk losing valuable data argues AMG MD

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Recent advances in CCTV networks technology have given security managers new quality and capacity options. Cutting edge technology has yielded resilient, nil latency, high camera count, real-time video transmission systems suitable for round-the-clock operations in sensitive or secure environments backed up by ultra-high capacity storage and archive systems.

The challenge for the industry is the emergence of video post-processing systems such as intelligent video incident management. Their image recognition and image tracking capabilities will radically redraw the next generation of control rooms, banishing the banks of monitors with which we are all so familiar and automatically concentrating our attention on incidents needing our intervention.

Although video solutions running on SDH or IP Networks are an absolute boon for many applications, the use of compressed video and compression algorithms means that decisions are being made 'at the camera' on the content of the video signal to be transmitted. Information, once removed, can not be restored and the use of compression technologies restricts post processing options for users.

Real-time digital video systems replicate the multiple access, redundancy and management features of the IP and SDH world. Crucially, in retaining the entire signal, they future proof investment as they open up new secondary processing opportunities.

We need to think about the evolving needs of our end users. Quality and constancy are crucial and the challenge here is for our industry to keep pace with the advances in technology. Reliance on limited legacy systems will limit the effectiveness of monitoring networks at a time when CCTV monitoring has never been more vital to security - we need to embrace new technologies or risk damaging the reputation of our industry.

About AMG Systems

AMG Systems Ltd is the world's leading provider of fibre optic transmission equipment designed for CCTV surveillance operations. Carrying real-time, full-bandwidth video, audio and data signals, the company's equipment is installed on highways, tunnels, rail links, ports, airports and buildings around the globe to enhance safety and security for all users. As well as providing the most comprehensive and innovative range available in the market today, AMG's expertise is also exploited to produce high-quality custom fibre-optic video, audio and data transmission products for many multi-national companies. The company is located at Stratton Business Park, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 8QB. Further details can be found at www.amgsystems.co.uk.

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