

Cement Works CCTV and Detection

Security Review and Equipment Design assessment

If the CCTV system is not doing what you expected, then a review can reveal a the reasons why and provide the solutions needed, often just a re design issue..

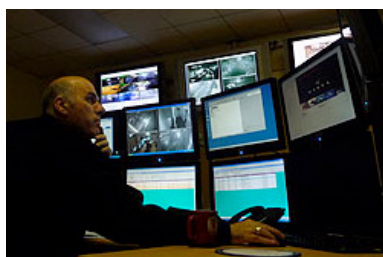
CCTV doesn't work! We still get the same problems as before!" A common statement heard from unhappy site managers who have spent their money, but are not happy with the result.

The dilemma in this case study is one of liaison and communication. Whilst there are, no doubt, some poor quality CCTV installers, quite often the tender process has focused more on the price than the design. Then the site manager has his budgets to keep within, and whilst that is understandable, the installing company can focus on keeping within the budget but not attend to designing around it at the same time. Most installers favour a limited list of equipment to make their job easier, but this can limit the design. Its also not in their interest to use existing equipment to integrate.



The site had been left with large areas that are no longer used but still have buildings and equipment to secure. Once vacant, many of the buildings become the target of copper and other cable theft. With such large open perimeters, many unfenced, there are difficulties in the logistics of securing and protecting the vulnerabilities. An added problem is the duty of care for the site and users of it. To protect authorised and non authorised personnel from harm whilst on site, measure have to be taken to provide notification if a person is on site.

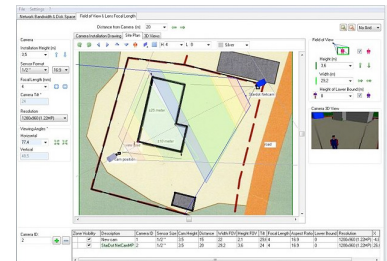
Arming the control room is essential!



The site survey revealed a mixture of good electronic security equipment but a poor design in the way it was installed. The on site guarding located in the top of site control room could receive alarms if activity was detected on site. These alarms were not logged so a missed alarm, or disabled alarm was a common occurrence.

Why disable an alarm? The control room had access to the site CCTV, but many of the points of detection, were not visible to cameras. Even when they were, the time it took to investigate would mean that any intruder was long gone from the point of detection by the time the guard viewed the camera. So, faced with a physical investigation by the reluctant guards, they took to using the site Landrover, all lights blazing to drive to the areas of alarm. This of course warned any intruder to hide, and wait for the lights to go. The issue was also that the site really didn't want the guards coming across a group of intruders and the possible harm they could incur.

Its all in the design!



The CCTV system needed a design overhaul-mainly to ensure that the guards were equipped to do their job remotely, before any considered physical intervention. The correct design, including a building perimeter detection that was not only visible to the CCTV cameras, but integrated to enable actual incidents to appear on the control room screens as they happened. A speaker system allowing for audible address as the first course of action, and a logging system of all alarms as an audit trail would protect the guards not only during an incident, but afterwards as their actions could be clearly seen.