

Getting ready for connected city services

By Andy Ward, Director of Sales, OpenView Security Solutions

As the number of people now able to access the internet continues to grow, whether using broadband services delivered to the home or by using their smartphones, it is becoming increasingly important to ensure that sufficiently powerful city-wide digital and physical infrastructures are installed to handle high levels of data. Users now expect to be able to access fast, resilient digital networks around the clock and there is now a reliance on these smart city solutions to address social, environmental and economic goals.

technology solutions for the public and private sectors. These form constituent parts of strategic smart city solutions as well as providing the flexibility to be used for stand-alone applications. It is of course important to take a long term approach when looking to specify and install such applications to ensure that they integrate with the new digital network infrastructures. This will not only help to achieve a longer return on investment but will also enable the provision of a higher level of services to consumers.

Integrators such as OpenView are leading the way in the transition from analogue-based

approach to integrating telecare solutions, previously better known as warden call systems, with personal alarms and fall alert pendants. The new generation of assisted living technology from OpenView promotes care and independence and enables people to live longer in their own communities. The use of smart technologies opens up access to a broader range of services that deliver more efficient care and health services directly into the homes of residents.

The capabilities of installing connected networks can of course extend much further to include a whole host of other technologies. These include the latest digital door entry systems which can be deployed in any environment from individual units to the most sophisticated, complex multi-site networked systems covering thousands of dwellings across wide geographical areas. It is interesting to note that OpenView was the first company to install and maintain a city-wide smart city IP concierge solution which is still the largest of its kind in the UK.

CCTV is another technology that fits well with this connected approach. Using the latest digital and IP-based cameras, CCTV networks of every size can be installed right up to multi-site networks linking thousands of cameras across wide geographical areas. Of course, it is essential to ensure that any supplier has experience of working with infrastructures of this scale with a demonstrable track record of successful installations. They should also ensure that every system installed is industry compliant and adheres to all relevant legislation concerning CCTV usage as well as having the expertise to provide professional solutions and support services

that meet the highest quality standards.

Having a single source supplier for a range of services and solutions can simplify the management processes as well as enabling cost savings to be achieved. For example, OpenView also provides fire detection services that use the most technologically advanced equipment to meet all regulatory and third party requirements. This includes passive fire services including bespoke fire doors, fire stopping (Fire Batts, Intumescent Sealants & Pillows), compartmentation (Fire Rated boarding, Brick and Blockwork) and fire coatings. In addition, its highly trained fire safety surveyors conduct onsite fire risk assessments and provide the documentation needed to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. They also help customers to understand, manage and reduce fire risks as well as assisting in the development of appropriate fire safety strategies to ensure compliance with statutory legislation and governance.

Finally, it is important to note that regardless of the inherent resilience and reliability of installed smart city solutions, the highest level of technical support remains a critical factor in ensuring network availability and meeting all relevant regulatory requirements. Companies such as OpenView use lean principles to not only consistently meet customer expectations, but also to exceed them at every opportunity.

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Independent systems integrators such as OpenView Security Solutions are at the forefront of installing and maintaining smart

systems to the new generation of IP-based smart city solutions that combine a diverse range of applications. They take a holistic

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