



APPLICATION STORY

FLIR cameras enable to see burglars through the smoke screen.

Concept Smoke Screen solution and FLIR TCX Mini Bullet thermal cameras make a comprehensive and affordable security solution for banks and retailers.

Alarm systems might be a good way to scare off thieves and attackers for your business, but if you really want to make it difficult for people with bad intentions, then a Smoke Screen security system is the way to go. The smoke screen solution from UK specialist Concept Smoke Screen can release thick obscuring smoke that hides valuables and disorients the intruder. Upon the event of a break in, the system can be activated remotely, and with thermal cameras from FLIR Systems, control room operators can see through the smoke to know exactly what's going on.

The UK based security company Concept Smoke Screen has been manufacturing security fog systems for over 40 years to protect people and assets around the world. Smoke Screen systems are machines that are designed to produce a thick fog that reduces visibility to inches, is disorienting and hide assets and protects people from attack. The solution is very popular with businesses that need to protect their assets and people, like jewellery shops, gas stations, banks and ATM systems, and many more.

Remote activation

Typically, smoke screen systems are activated by an alarm system. The system can also be activated, during the day by a staff member by pushing a panic button.

"More recently however, we have seen an increase of customers who are interested in a

smoke screen solution with remote monitoring and intervention possibilities," says Paul Stickley, European Business Development Manager for Concept Smoke Screen. "That's why our company developed a new product range, a full IP-based Smoke Screen system, that enables control rooms to receive a signal of an attack or activation. This allows the monitoring station to dial into the Smoke Screen system and the site security systems, in order to trigger it, view status of the machines and view cameras to take control of the situation."

Visibility challenges

A smoke screen system is highly effective, because it makes it almost impossible for intruders to see anything, which disables them immediately. Security fog is indeed the only security solution on the market that is designed to actually stop a thief or attacker.



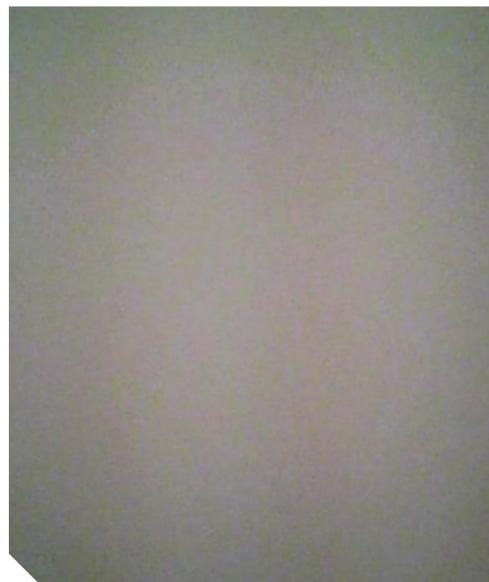
Smoke Screen systems produce a thick fog that reduces visibility to inches, is disorienting and hide assets and protects people from attack.

However, for third parties like control room operators who are making use of the system, there is a serious challenge: once the security fog has been deployed and the room is full of smoke, it is doing exactly what it is designed to do, namely reducing the visibility to virtually zero. As a result, a third party dialing in cannot see what is going on or know whether the attackers are still in the building or confirm that the attack has been neutralized."

Thermal cameras see through smoke

Remotely monitoring a smoke scene by means of visual CCTV cameras is therefore not an option, because they cannot see through smoke. But Concept Smoke Screen did find a better way to handle this, after meeting up with FLIR Systems in 2015. "We knew that thermal imaging camera technology was around and that it is very effective to see through smoke," says Paul Stickley. "But to our knowledge, thermal imaging cameras were still quite expensive, and therefore not a very attractive solution to offer our customers."

In 2015 however, FLIR introduced its low-cost TCX Mini Bullet thermal camera to the people of Concept Smoke Screen, who were quite impressed about the camera. The FLIR TCX Mini Bullet is the first class of cameras to combine 24/7 high-contrast thermal video and high-performance built-in video motion detection (VMD) with a high level of affordability. The cost-effective FLIR cameras deliver extremely accurate visual alarm verification and are very easy to install. With this new camera series, Concept Smoke Screen realized that it had options to complete its security fog system with an affordable thermal monitoring solution.



Thermal imaging cameras can effectively see through smoke.

Taking control of the situation

With FLIR thermal imaging cameras, a third party such as a control room operator that is dialing into the camera system can actually see through the smoke and pick up the heat signatures of people within the building, enabling them to understand what is going on, understand where the attackers are and take control the situation like never before. This enables control room operators to advise third parties such as the police or security services on what is going on, confirm the status of the attack and exactly locate where the attackers are.

"The FLIR cameras changed the whole situation," says Paul Stickley. "With that camera offering, we finally are able to offer our customers a high quality thermal solution that is attractively priced as well. We believe that with the combined solution consisting of the security fog system from Concept Smoke Screen, together with the low-cost FLIR cameras, we will be able to offer businesses that need to protect their assets and people, like jewellery shops, gas stations, and banks, a very comprehensive and affordable security solution."



FLIR TCX Mini Bullet camera

The cost-effective FLIR TCX Mini Bullet camera is the first class of cameras to combine 24/7 high-contrast thermal video and high-performance built-in video motion detection (VMD) with a high level of affordability.

Concept Smoke Screen:
www.smoke-screen.co.uk

For more information about thermal imaging cameras or about this application, please visit:

www.flir.com/security

The images displayed may not be representative of the actual resolution of the camera shown. Images for illustrative purposes only. Date created: Sept 2016