

Bosch Wireless Alarms Behind Bars



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Arno Klompers, Bosch Security Systems

Project: HMP Perth
Sector: Custodial
Product: PS Pager

HMP Perth is undergoing a major renovation and modernisation to improve living conditions for prisoners and the working environment of prison officers. The improvements being made by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) include the installation of a new wireless personal-alarm system for officers: the Personal Security Pager (PS-Pager) System from Bosch Security Systems.

One of the largest prisons in Scotland, HMP Perth houses around 700 inmates, including short-term adult male prisoners and remand prisoners. The prison has recently been undergoing major modernisation which will see a completely renewed prison by 2010, with much better living conditions for prisoners, greater access to improved facilities and better working conditions for prison staff.

Upgrading safety and security

At the start of the renovation project, SPS looked carefully into upgrading all security alarm systems within the prison, including an alarm system for prison staff.

Traditionally, systems used throughout the UK prison service have included fixed, wall-mounted alarm buttons and PMRs (private mobile radios). However, SPS opted for a wireless system with alarm mobiles carried by every prison officer, which not only provides added personal security for all officers, but also eliminates the wiring needed with the old wall-mounted alarm system and offers major cost savings during renovation and rebuilding.

The reliability of a wireless system was an important factor in the selection process, which Bosch was able to demonstrate easily, as Arno Klompers, Bosch’s UK Sales Manager for Personal Security, explains, “With our personal alarm system we have around 60% of the prison market in the Netherlands. It’s a proven technology and the system has been on the market in Europe for over nine years, installed in a large number of prisons and other detention and mental health environments”.



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Darren Swindlehurst, Alarm Radio Monitoring

“The PS-Pager system is a flexible wireless personal alarm solution. All prison officers have their own PS-Pager mobile through which they can transmit an alarm to the Central Control room. The status of all PS-Pagers is monitored and requests for assistance are automatically routed. And even if Central Control is unmanned, the system automatically forwards the alarm call to a response team,” enthused Arno.

The system also features an embedded RF-based location detection system, ensuring that the position of every officer can be tracked throughout the prison premises. Locations are sent automatically with every alarm call, enabling response teams to be directed quickly to the scene of an incident.

Designed for quick and accurate response to prevent an alarm situation escalating into an emergency, the PS-Pager is the main mobile device carried by the prison staff. Robust and water resistant, it features a manual alarm, a programmable second alarm, a reversible message display on top for hands-free reading plus a graphical front display for legible (alarm) messages and a vibrator for discreet alerting. Moreover, officers carrying the PS-Pager are protected by the system’s scanning function. The system continuously checks all PS-Pagers and informs users automatically in case of malfunction. In addition, the battery of the PS-Pager has more than sufficient operating time of up to 60 hours, and a flat battery is fully charged within three hours.

Seeing is believing!

Representatives from the Prison Service participated in a site demonstration of the system and, after evaluation, the Bosch solution appeared to be the most reliable and the best value for the modernisation project at HMP Perth.

The system was installed by Leominster-based dealer Alarm Radio Monitoring (ARM). Darren Swindlehurst, ARM’s Marketing and Sales Manager, is very enthusiastic about the officers’ Personal Alarm System. “We installed the system during one weekend in record time, without disruption of the prison operation and inconvenience to the prison staff, which numbers about 250. Since then, the prison’s officers and management have been most impressed with the system, particularly the robustness of the handsets,” said Darren.



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