

# Keeping an eye on video technology



It is the nature of the beast that solar parks are often sited in remote locations and with so many valuable components, keeping them secure from theft and vandalism can be a challenge. PES had a great interview with Marc Thurn, CEO of LivEye International Group, along with his colleagues Arkadiusz Plaskowicki, CCO, LivEye International Group & CEO LivEye sp. z o.o. and Tobias Bayer, Sector KAM Wind Energy & Solar, about the possibilities of video surveillance. Could this big brother-style technology hold the key to solar park security?

**PES:** Welcome to PES Solar, it's lovely to have you with us. It's particularly great to get to speak to all three of you, as we're sure it will make for an interesting interview. Perhaps we can begin with a short introduction to LivEye and where you sit within the solar market?

**Marc Thurn:** LivEye International specialises in the surveillance of temporary risk zones with mobile security solutions. We develop and produce state-of-the-art video surveillance systems under the brand name LivEye®. We also offer camera systems for documentation purposes as well as surveillance systems for early fire detection.

In addition to our own research and development unit, we also have our own production site with partial production in Poland. Together with our 24/7 Video Monitoring & Alarm Centre, we offer top-quality video surveillance for all types of premises and our specially designed systems for outdoor use also provide comprehensive protection for solar parks.

**PES:** Firstly, can you explain a little bit about your work with solar parks?

**Arkadiusz Plaskowicki:** The expansion of renewable energies, especially in the area of photovoltaics, means the number of solar parks is also increasing. The operators of such

sites are subject to various risks, particularly during the setup of a new park. As valuable materials, expensive machinery and high-quality components and solar modules can earn lots of money on the black market, solar parks are often the target of theft.

The reports of sabotage often tend to pile up. In addition to the financial cost, this can also cause huge damage to reputation. It is therefore essential for operators of such sites to invest in the security of their equipment.

**Tobias Bayer:** In order to provide comprehensive protection for this equipment, we first analyse the site, identify specific requirements and then create a bespoke security concept tailored to the client's needs.

**PES:** Are there specific requirements for solar park surveillance as opposed to other areas of application that you cover?

**TB:** The requirements for on-site video surveillance vary depending on the location and must be individually adapted to each solar park. Solar parks are often situated in remote areas, away from all types of infrastructure, which presents a unique challenge.

**PES:** You mentioned that solar parks are very often located in quite isolated areas, can you tell us more about the specific challenges?

**TB:** Given that solar parks are often located far from residential areas, this makes it easier for criminals to carry out theft unnoticed. The equipment is often insufficiently protected: simply using railings poses no challenge for planned theft, particularly for organised gangs. As a result of the lack of infrastructure and energy supply, self-sufficient solutions are required to safeguard the equipment which is made possible using surveillance.

**PES:** Can you give us some information about the type of product and services you provide for such situations?

**TB:** Thanks to a suitable power supply system, the LivEye® PRO 2.0 system can operate completely self-sufficiently for up to three months, ensuring a fail-safe power supply and thus continuous recording. This means video surveillance can be easily carried out, even in remote areas.

With a mast height of 8.50 m, the systems are suitable for flexible use on extensive sites and effectively protect all types of solar park against intruders.

**PES:** How does solar park surveillance work with LivEye?

**TB:** The LivEye® systems offer protection particularly in areas where solar parks are easily accessible. Two highly functional PTZ



Marc Thurn



Arkadiusz Plaskowicki



Tobias Bayer

cameras record all suspicious activity in a surveillance radius of up to 200 m. As soon as an intruder is detected, our continuously staffed Video Monitoring & Alarm Centre is notified and the chain of intervention started.

If unauthorised persons have gained access to the site, the persons concerned are first requested to leave the area immediately by a live announcement via the integrated loudspeaker system. If this request is not complied with, the police or security guards are alerted.

The stored video material also provides investigators with valuable evidence that will assist in solving the case.

**PES: Is this surveillance available around the clock? And are there any locations or distances where it might not be possible for this technology to work?**

**TB:** The systems can be operated around the clock as required. When it gets dark, their night vision mode switches on automatically. In this way, any threat is reliably detected and can be eliminated at an early stage.

The systems can be set up anywhere using a wheel loader or crane and positioned as required. Our product range comprises both electricity powered and self-sufficient systems, allowing us to adequately protect any site.

**PES: What are the main advantages of such video surveillance in general and your products in particular do you think?**

**TB:** Our mobile camera systems can be used flexibly and are also perfectly suitable as a temporary security measure. They enable continuous surveillance of both expansive areas and hilly terrain. This makes them a cost-effective alternative or even an addition to conventional site security.

What's more, the LivEye® systems can be retrofitted with thermal imaging cameras for uses like perimeter protection or early fire



detection. This provides even more security and cost savings. Optionally, customers can also observe the monitored area themselves at any time via an app.

**AP:** We also place great value on high-quality products and state-of-the-art technology. The LivEye® analysis software and intelligent parameters ensure that errors in the detection of movement and identification of incidents is kept to a minimum.

**PES: What about current technical developments? How do you ensure that you can keep up with the market?**

**MT:** At our research and development site, we work continuously on new approaches and concepts in the area of mobile video surveillance solutions. This includes both the further development of existing systems as well as developing new products.

One of the main focuses of the LivEye® Research & Development Centre is the ongoing further and new development of software to optimise LivEye® system components.

Our customers therefore benefit from systems that always feature the latest technology and are regularly updated. We can also implement special solutions according to specific customer requirements.

**PES: It would be great if you could give one or two examples of your products in action on solar parks? Have you worked on any particularly interesting applications recently you can tell us about?**

**TB:** Multiple major construction projects across Europe are currently safeguarded using mobile video surveillance solutions by LivEye®. Systems with a fixed location are used at strategic locations such as site facilities or material warehouses and additional systems are regularly repositioned as part of regular construction progress.

This allows the surveillance to be adapted based on the dynamic construction work taking place. We implemented continuous perimeter protection using high-performance thermal imaging cameras as part of an additional project.

**PES: You have subsidiaries in Germany, Switzerland and Poland at the moment, are there plans to expand your offering on a more global scale in the future?**

**AP:** Globalisation and increased networking worldwide are affecting our industry. Despite advancements in digitalisation, we have noticed that proximity to the market offers huge advantages and impacts customer loyalty.

As previously mentioned, last year saw the launch of the state-represented LivEye sp. z o.o. in Poland and LivEye Swiss GmbH in Switzerland. In recent months, we have also opened sales offices in Leipzig, Munich, Vienna and Madrid. By increasing our sites, we are strengthening our proximity to customers and can react with flexibility to market requirements.

[www.liveye.com/en/](http://www.liveye.com/en/)

