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## **Axis sees rise in demand for fuel depot surveillance solutions as recession bites**

**Axis Communications partner LDE Data Communications Limited (LDE) has seen unprecedented demand for their fuel depot security solution 'SmartAlarms' following a significant rise in fuel theft during 2008. Several police forces including West Yorkshire and Gwent reported a near tripling of fuel theft-related crimes after price rises in their jurisdictions this year, amounting to several reported incidents across the country each week.**

LDE, a network integration and security installation firm based in Wiltshire, has been taking a steady stream of enquiries from fuel depot operations and has so far installed networked surveillance systems at more than 140 sites across the country. Surveillance has become vital as thieves are becoming increasingly bold in the manner of their thefts. LDE managing director Julio Wildeboer explains:

“We’ve seen several examples of thieves using angle grinders to cut holes in tanks above the oil line in order to gain access to the product. They don’t even bother breaking into the tanks’ caps anymore and are quite prepared to take the risk of setting the place on fire in their quest for the fuel, as it is now worth from £10,000 to £20,000 per tank.

Thieves have also become more adept at evading the law when transporting stolen fuel. In one recent example a curtain-sided lorry was used to hide six plastic domestic 2500 litre tanks of diesel stolen from a depot. Normally the police would have been out hunting for a fuel tanker, and so this lorry would have been able to escape initial detection. Luckily, the targeted depot had SmartAlarms and caught the whole event on camera. The police were called immediately and the vehicle seized whilst the criminals were still loading up.”

It is also proving more difficult to deter fuel theft gangs by fitting stand-alone alarms due to the unwillingness of neighbours to alert the police when systems are triggered. To combat this problem, LDE is increasingly working with companies to install networked surveillance solutions that utilize the existing corporate wide area networks (WANs). These WANs are used heavily for the transmission of scheduling, orders and accounts information during the working day but when idle at night they can be deployed to carry security information. The SmartAlarms system converts conventional CCTV image streams from analogue to digital using AXIS 241Q Video Encoders, allowing this data to be carried over the company WAN.

These images are then transmitted securely to LDE’s own Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) which provides 24-hour monitoring and emergency response to over 140 fuel depots and stores all of the footage for later analysis offsite. LDE’s team at the centre provides vital real-time verification of any triggered alert, preventing false alarms and avoiding unnecessary police callouts.

If there is genuine criminal activity the ARC will call the appointed site keyholder to advise them of events and enable them to take immediate action. The keyholder may then log on to

LDE's web interface to view cameras in real-time, or switch to analysis of recorded images. The police will also be informed that a theft is underway – on previous occasions, LDE staff have even emailed images to the local police station ahead of the arrival of the arresting officers, aiding them as they apprehend the suspects. The camera footage also provides valuable intelligence on the methods and transportation used by thieves, increasing conviction rates and aiding future theft prevention.

Wildeboer summarised:

“Fuel theft is an increasingly serious problem and the human as well as economic costs are very high indeed. Organised crime gangs are using profits from stolen fuel to fund other criminal activities including drug trafficking. So anything we can do to stop fuel depot thefts will have a positive knock-on effect on crime as a whole.”

Phil Doyle, managing director, Axis Communications (UK) Limited:

“LDE's SmartAlarms is a great example of a real-world, innovative solution to serious financial challenges facing companies today. The use of event triggers to avoid 24/7/365 live monitoring and distribution to staff and police of images of theft in progress is indicative of the power of IP-based surveillance. Well done to Julio and his team at LDE.”

*-ends-*

**About Axis**

*Axis is an IT company offering network video solutions for professional installations. The company is the global market leader in network video, driving the ongoing shift from analogue to digital video surveillance. Axis products and solutions focus on security surveillance and remote monitoring and are based on innovative, open technology platforms.*

*Axis is a Swedish-based company, operating worldwide with offices in more than 20 countries and cooperating with partners in more than 70 countries. Founded in 1984, Axis is listed on OMX Nordic Exchange under the ticker AXIS. For more information about Axis, please visit our website at [www.axis.com](http://www.axis.com)*

**About LDE**

*LDE has been providing data communications solutions for nearly 20 years, including broadband service provision, wireless, long-range wireless, fibre, 3G, GPRS and traditional copper fixed connections. LDE specialises in difficult sites both for data networks and SmartAlarms – quarries, oil depots, builders' merchants, mobile applications (oil delivery tankers) temporary applications (telemetry for Formula 1 testing) ex-nuclear bunkers, high value bonded warehouses as well as standard ones and can offer consultancy, design, implementation and monitoring of WANs.*

*SmartAlarms has been protecting sites for over six years and was developed with the advice of an ex Scotland Yard Commander as a result of a request from a customer. The range of services offered has expanded to meet customer needs and now includes:*

- 24/7 monitoring
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition
- access control
- lone worker
- cover for temporary sites
- fuel pump data connections and security cameras

*For further information, see our websites [www.lde.co.uk](http://www.lde.co.uk) and [www.smartalarms.net](http://www.smartalarms.net) or contact [info@lde.co.uk](mailto:info@lde.co.uk).*

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