

IFSEC 2009 ... buzzing with business yet again

Security Focus has had its own stand at IFSEC, arguably the world's largest global annual security event, for the past 15 years and IFSEC 2009, held in May, turned out to be the busiest ever for this journal.

By Godfrey King
Publisher/Editor

IFSEC 2009 was attended by more than 600 of the world's leading security companies – all of whom showcased the very latest technologies.

Despite the recession, there was a continuing buzz with exhibitors being grouped into different product areas – access control, IP networks and integrated systems, CCTV, intruder alarms, counter terror and physical security, and security solutions. For ease of visitor navigation, the aisle carpets of these key product areas were colour-coded.

Each year, IFSEC is the launch pad for a wide variety of products, services and innovations from the industry's leading suppliers. Inevitably, IP CCTV came to the fore once again. While IP has made great strides, hybrid systems seem to be a way forward and never more so than in a global downturn where there is a greater willingness to keep analogue cameras that are still performing well.

Providing a great boost to IP over the last year, has been the formation of ONVIF (Open Network Video Interface Forum), which has been formed by Bosch, Sony and Axis, and which promises no more hassles for installers who want to replace one manufacturer's cameras with another.

Other prominent developmental areas were video analytics – which is said to have taken the industry by storm – and biometrics, encompassing hand, palm, vein, face and finger biometrics.

A new reality throughout IFSEC 2009 was keeping costs and prices down, while maintaining or improving the quality of offering.



Godfrey King, editor of *Security Focus*, at the *Security Focus* stand.

Of note at IFSEC 2009 was the large amount of conference and seminar action.

A high level three-day conference programme, covering the most cutting-edge issues affecting the industry, was run alongside the IFSEC exhibition. The three days covered:

- Global, national and local protection.
- Corporate security management, and
- Technological innovation in practice.

In addition, there were seminar theatres inside the exhibition halls themselves which covered, on a daily basis, a host of subjects, including new products and technology. The business seminars also included information on how to manage your business in a downturn.

Over the years that *Security Focus* has been in attendance, IFSEC has grown

massively. This year – for the first time – the exhibition moved to new halls in the centre of the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) at Birmingham.

IFSEC was co-located with a number of other events that could also be attended free of charge. These were The Facilities Show; International Firex; Safety and Health Expo; and Fire and Rescue.

Perhaps due to the recession, there were some notable absentees, with perhaps the chief being Norbain, although Norbain did sponsor the IFSEC 2009 Security Industry Awards.

One comment from a South African visitor was that the hardware offered had remained largely the same, but that advances were being made in software. ■

Seen @ IFSEC 2009 ...



Anton Pieterse,
Safetell Ltd.



Erich Glatz, GSC
Systems.



Breda Keneally,
Specialised
Exhibitions.



Jack Edery, CEO, Elvey
Security Technologies.



Paul and Ingrid Wainstein.