

Safe Passage for the 2008 Olympic Games

Beijing Invests in Mass Transport Network



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Next year the eyes of the world and particularly security teams for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa and the 2012 Olympics in London will turn to China's capital city, Beijing, as it hosts the 2008 Olympic Games. Recently much of the publicity for the forthcoming Olympic Games has focused on the environmental conditions of Beijing and its attempts to reduce the levels of smog across the city by the start of the games next August. This has extended to car reduction schemes and lower priced (2 yuan) tickets for travel on its metro rail network being trialled across the city, to ease road congestion, the resultant pollution and encourage uptake of this rapidly expanding mass transit network.

An Investment for the Future

To cope with the increased demands on public transport (and the expected influx of people visiting the city for the Games) the Beijing municipal government has invested heavily in its mass transit network in the run up to the Olympic Games (a programme that is set to continue until 2015, long after the medals have been awarded). At the beginning of October 2007 the first of three new state-of-the-art metro rail lines was opened, The Beijing Subway Line 5, boasting state-of-the-art

carriages that will enable commuters to watch the Games on LCD screens and use mobile phones whilst travelling underground.

With the increase in daily commuters (more than one million use the Beijing metro rail network each day) and of course the increased threats associated with staging such large scale global events as an Olympic Games or World Cup, further pressure is heaped on mass transit systems to provide a safe and secure environment for them to travel. So, to match the advances in Beijing's subway system it has invest-

ed in the next generation advanced real-time digital video surveillance solutions to be deployed across the metro system.

Over 70 metro stations will eventually be connected to this new security system, incorporating 1,400 cameras in phase one and a further 2,200 cameras in subsequent phases. Line 5 is open now, Line 10 that includes the Olympic sub-route and the Airport Express Line 4 are both scheduled to open at the beginning of 2008, well in advance of the Olympic Games, as well as a further new line in 2009. They will be

monitored from the station monitoring rooms and from the central command and control centre, giving security personnel the power to identify risk, make optimal decisions and take action that improves security.

Video Surveillance and Analytics

Using an advanced real-time distributed digital video security and surveillance solution from Nice Systems, it will enhance the awareness of the metro's surveillance teams to issues that may present a potential threat to commuter safety and/or inhibit the smooth running of the metro. The many benefits of the system include the ability to identify suspicious/unattended packages on a crowded subway platform and to automatically detect unauthorised entry into secured areas.

To place the potential benefits of the system in context, imagine the scenario of the 100-metre athletics final taking place on an August evening at the National Stadium. A capacity crowd of

91,000 visitors are expected to witness the event and many of them are using the metro rail network to arrive at the Olympic Green site in good time. However, an hour before the event (at the peak travelling time) an unattended package is spotted by one of the surveillance team, on one of the subway platform's standard analogue and PTZ (Pan Tilt & Zoom) CCTV cameras.

The next decision the operator makes has potentially far reaching repercussions. Does he air of the side of caution and raise an alert for the platform to be closed, halt trains through the station and inform emergency services, resulting in chaos for travel to the venue and widespread panic that entails? Or, should he send a security guard to the location to investigate further? That is a lot of pressure to place on the shoulders of a single camera operator.

With the new surveillance system in place the operator will be able to act quickly and replay the video in picture to immediately playback and review how the package arrived on

the platform, whilst simultaneously keeping check on the ongoing situation. Perhaps it is simply a man behaving irresponsibly and wandering from his bag whilst making a call on his mobile, or maybe signs indicate something more suspicious.

The point is that with the right information available at the right time, the operator is able to make the right judgement calls regarding incidents they spot themselves, or those that are automatically detected and flagged up to them, in order to help keep commuters safe and the transport system moving throughout the duration of the Olympic Games and beyond.

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