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An integrated security system (ISS) will optimise global port security

Security threats, sabotage and acts of terrorism are becoming progressively more advanced throughout the world. The marine industry is seeing increasing piracy attacks on sea vessels globally and especially off the coast of East Africa, and ports are becoming more vulnerable to threats to national security.

It is therefore vital to enhance and optimise the security of ships and port facilities worldwide. Technological advances, particularly leading edge developments in integrated security systems, are being used to do this.

“Today technological advances in control, integration and connectivity play an integral role in port security and protection of ports against national security threats,” explains Jaco Cronje, Director at EES Africa Pty Ltd (EES). EES, an ISO 9001:2008 certified company, provides management, engineering and auditing services, and specialises in the integration of multiple system infrastructure.

“Security systems can no longer be viewed as individual silos as was previously the case, but it is essential that all security elements are integrated. As such, an Integrated Security System (ISS) is required. It ensures access to facilities and data is authenticated, authorised and accounted for.”

EES project manages the implementation of an ISS solution, which is aligned with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code). The ISPS Code is a comprehensive set of measures to enhance the security of ships and port facilities, developed in response to the perceived threats to ships and port facilities after the events of September 2001 in the United States. The ISS automatically links all security and surveillance activities to the ISPS Code.

“ISS, as the term suggests, provides a multi-layer, multi-system approach to security. Drawing on experience in analysing security risks to clients across multiple sectors, we would identify and recommend a list of security systems to be audited and reported on,” says Cronje.

The systems are integrated and combined into a single physical space known as a Security Operations Centre. This room is specially designed to optimise lighting, temperature, air quality, display areas, ergonomics and operations.

The systems include:

- CCTV for facial detection, number plate recognition and analytics
- Weighbridges for access control
- Electronic scanning
- Technology supporting mobile security staff
- Fire detection
- Intruder alarm systems
- Hard wired alarms
- PA Systems with full bi-directional audio
- Physical Security Information Management (PSIM)
- Port management software
- Asset tracking
- Holding cells
- Search facilities
- Visitor management systems
- Radar services

In addition to ensuring best safety practices for vessels and people, an ISS ensures compliance with international codes.

Technology alone is not the only solution. EES focuses on the processes required to gain maximum benefit from the security technologies. The human element is still the greatest combat mechanism to security threats.

“Annual audits of the technology, facilities, procedures and skill sets need to be conducted to ensure ports stay competitive in terms of security management,” Cronje states.

He concludes that an experienced security advisory and project management company, skilled in use of the relevant technology, should be appointed to provide the required professional services to manage the implementation of the ISS platform.

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EES company profile:

Established in 2001, EES Africa (Pty) Ltd specialises in the integration of multiple system infrastructure including ICT, Data Centres, Audio Visual, Life Safety, Security and Building Automation Systems. As an ISO 9001:2008 certified company, our vision is to be Africa's management, engineering and auditing professional service provider of choice. The EES Value Proposition focuses on translating technology into tangible deliverables for clients through the experience of a talented team of Engineering and ICT Consultants and Project Managers. With offices in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Stellenbosch, EES operates predominantly in the Renewable Energy, Oil & Gas, Financial Services, Infrastructure, Utilities, Telecoms and Mining sectors.

Issued on behalf of EES

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