

CASE STUDY

Bridgeport Harbor Bridgeport, Connecticut

At Bridgeport Harbor, Henry Bros. Electronics, Inc. delivered another specialty surveillance solution. The harbor authority needed to detect objects that would present a heat signature, such as people in the water and improvised explosive devices planted in areas along waterways, bridge abutments, or piers.

HBE equipped three patrol boats with a thermal imaging camera and digital recording systems. The components included:

- ICX DefendIR Dual Technology (DT) Thermal and Visual Color Camera System
- Custom HBE/AXIS Digital Video Recording System
- Touch screen control and display system

The challenges involved in installing this type of system on boats were daunting. Conventional hard drive DVRs would not work in this application because of radical movements caused by vibration or shock from the rough waters.

Solid-state storage devices had to be used because of environmental issues and rough water conditions. These devices could store approximately 70 hours of video. Since the customer had the ability to download the activity to a memory stick immediately after returning from an incident, this storage amount was adequate. The downloaded data could then be archived on a DVD for evidence in a case or other future use.

All the components had to be extremely weather proof and housed to prevent corrosion from the water and salt.

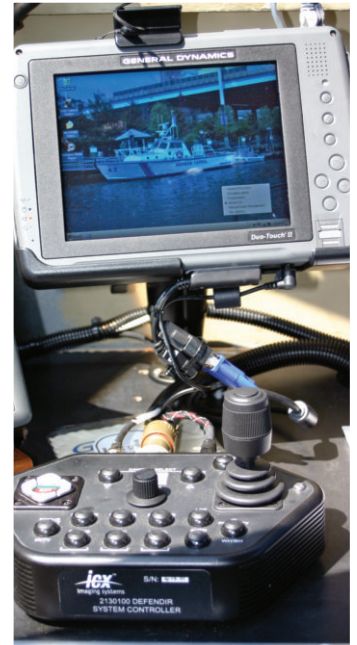
HBE's solution met all of these challenges. The General Dynamic System control computer was mounted at the helm of each vessel with heavy-duty gimble mounts. The ICX DefendIR DT camera could detect objects with heat signatures, and it fit the patrol boat application perfectly. Mounting the camera on a substructure tied to the vessel frame eliminated any unnecessary stress to the vessel roof or other location. This allowed for total adjustment of the Display/Control Screen, so that the officers conducting the operation had an optimum view.

The DVR recording components were mounted in an environmental housing with all input and output cables routed through gland type connectors. The components selected generate minimal heat, so there was no need for ventilation fans or open vents of any kind.

When the system is powered and booted up, the video from the camera appears on the display. The ICX camera can overlay the thermal image on the normal visual image, making thermal detection at dusk and dawn much easier.

When the officers want to record a scene, all they need to do is toggle a single switch. Once the recording is made, the switch is then placed in the stand-by position.

Bridgeport Harbor offers another example of HBE's ingenuity. The company surmounted challenging environmental factors to devise a specialty surveillance solution.



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