

# IN SAFE HANDS WITH THE UK SECURITY INDUSTRY

From access control to property marking and from CCTV installation to secure document destruction – there are many different facets that make up the United Kingdom security industry.

Renowned worldwide as an innovative provider of cutting-edge technology, the UK security industry employs about 600,000 people and is worth an estimated 5.15 billion pounds.

More than 2,000 companies specialise in the design, manufacture and supply of security equipment and these products are sold to businesses, private households, government agencies and police forces globally. The Italian and Spanish police are particularly keen on UK security products, buying much of their requirements from the UK.

Apart from the manufacture of such products, there is also a thriving security guarding industry in the UK, with about 2,000 companies in operation. In the light of heightened security awareness following recent terrorist attacks, the sector is particularly strong on risk/threat assessment and how best to respond.

Another area of expertise is in the high-tech field of CCTV (closed-circuit television). There are an estimated 4.25 million CCTV cameras installed in the UK. Personal security such as household and personal alarms, and security advisory services are also strongly represented.

As far as inward investment goes, there are numerous foreign security companies operating in the UK including top firms such as:

- \* Japanese giant CBC Europe that supplies security monitors, infrared cameras and night vision lenses;
- \* fingerprint, iris and face-recognition specialist International Biometric Group, headquartered in New York, and with offices in London;
- \* German group Bosch Security Systems that specialises in CCTV, intrusion detection and access management.

Bosch produces a best-selling CCTV camera called Eazeo that is popular with smaller retailers such as convenience shops, liquor stores and newsagents. Company spokesman Malcolm Chadwick said: "Eazeo is the perfect solution for retail applications

requiring up to eight cameras, and it's easy to add extra facilities such as door-entry control, video recording or remote viewing as the situation demands."

Another example is leading international security group Kaba that has headquarters in Switzerland and 5,900 employees worldwide. Kaba makes and installs locks in major hotel chains worldwide. In the UK, Kaba has two operations, one in Devon, south-west England and the other in Telford, north-west England. The company was recently awarded the contract to supply all door locks for the first easyHotel in Kensington, London. The hotel is the latest addition to low-cost travel empire easyGroup, founded by Stelios Haji-Ioannou.

Every now and again a UK security company comes up with a new system that creates interest worldwide. One such product is SelectaDNA that is merging science with security and using DNA principles to help police foil both property and office theft.

SelectaDNA - developed by Kent-based Selectamark Security Systems - is a water-based adhesive containing a unique identity signature that runs through the liquid, in a similar way that one person's DNA is unique among humans. SelectaDNA is also being used to mark high-value equipment in offices and factories, where last year alone, property theft of items such as laptops, laser printers, DVD players, fine art, construction machinery and tools cost UK businesses at least 150 million pounds.

SelectaDNA is built up of four distinct chemicals that have two key sequences whose identity must be known before the unique code sequence can be accessed. It is the sequence of the four chemicals within the DNA molecule that creates the unique and specific DNA string.

One of the main advantages of using a marking product such as SelectaDNA is that it is virtually impossible to remove traces of it and identification can be made from specks the size of a pin head.

Selectamark's chairman Jim Brown said: "SelectaDNA is an exciting new technology which is creating huge interest from overseas. It is great to think that sophisticated scientific advances such as this are now available to businesses and the general public, and that it can help them securely mark their property and cut crime at the same time."