



LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION

IN CONJUNCTION WITH HAWKEYE

Increasingly municipalities, universities and corporations are installing and utilizing Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) Cameras for the purposes of crime prevention, public safety and theft deterrence. Some of these same organizations are also installing Event Detection equipment such as Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Systems. For the most part, Event Detection Systems work independently from the Video Management Systems that control the PTZ Camera Networks and the Network Digital Video Recorder (DVR) Systems that store the collected video imagery.

Pelican Technologies developed the HAWKEYE system to automatically command PTZ Cameras to respond to geospatial specific events detected by Event Detection Systems such as ALPR Systems.

HAWKEYE responds to events as they occur and actions the connected cameras instantly.

Simultaneously, HAWKEYE informs connected Video Management Systems of the camera action (to alert operators) and connected DVR systems to provide a bookmark that can be used to audit and review the event at a later date.

HAWKEYE is a hardware and software combination that ties into existing network infrastructure to process and act on externally detected events. Included in the system is a graphical user interface and mapping application to assist in setting up HAWKEYE, a set of data interfaces that allow HAWKEYE to communicate with common Event Detection systems and common Video Management Systems and comprehensive user documentation that details the setup and tuning options available to configure HAWKEYE to each unique environment.

HAWKEYE plugs into your existing facility hardware; there is no need to replace your existing Cameras, Video Management Systems, DVR or Event Detection Systems.

In studies performed by law enforcement groups and private security firms, the average time required for a human operator to focus a camera onto the scene of a detected event is measured in minutes. HawkEye performs the same function in less than a second. The difference is:

- the difference between a quick apprehension and a lengthy investigation;
- the difference between a digital video record and an eye-witness memory;
- the difference between certainty and “reasonable doubt.”

HAWKEYE enables municipalities to reduce the time required to collect valuable evidence and increases convictions. HAWKEYE allows corporations and private organizations to provide to law enforcement officials information that is critical to investigations and limits risk and liability exposure when the unforeseen occurs.

Those cities, companies and universities that invest in the HAWKEYE system will see an immediate ROI in the form of decreased crime, lowered liability risk, increased order and overall safer public environments.

Event detection alone is an incomplete assessment of activities. Once an event has been detected, video monitoring and recording is essential for an accurate assessment of risk and impact. Pelican Technologies has introduced HAWKEYE to tie together Event Detection and Video Management Systems into a coherent and automated system.



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DO YOUR ALPR CAMERAS SEEK OUT THEIR TARGETS?

ALPR systems use Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to read the license plates on vehicles. The system typically uses existing red-light enforcement cameras, closed-circuit television or other cameras specifically designed for ALPR tasks.

The software aspect of the system runs on standard PC hardware and can be linked to other applications or databases. It first uses a series of image manipulation techniques to detect, normalize and enhance the image of the number plate and then optical character recognition to extract the alphanumeric elements of the license plate.

Many cities and states are deploying ALPR systems to aid a diverse range of missions:

- Identifying drivers with suspended or revoked licenses
- Recovery of stolen vehicles
- Locating suspected criminals
- Locating BOLO individuals or vehicles
- Aiding in Amber Alerts and Silver Alerts
- Parking enforcement

One of the biggest challenges with ALPR technology is the accuracy of the OCR. Every state has multiple license plate designs that must be recognized by the ALPR system, the shape of the characters, color of the plates and whether the characters are raised or flat can affect OCR accuracy. Compounding those issues, from time to time, states will make significant changes in their license plate protocol that will affect OCR accuracy.



ALPR technology increases the odds of stolen vehicle recovery because these systems can cross check license plate numbers against lists of stolen plates and vehicles many times faster than if done manually. This capability is very beneficial to the auto insurance industry and in some states, insurance companies are helping to fund the purchase of ALPR systems for their local law enforcement agencies.

When ALPR Systems output their GPS and related Event Data to HAWKEYE, the HAWKEYE system spins PTZ cameras in the vicinity onto the offending target, notifies dispatchers and camera operators that an ALPR automated camera action has occurred and inserts bookmarks into the DVR video feed to enable easier reference to the incident at later times. This additional video evidence can be used to help identify the drivers of stolen vehicles or increase the information available in Amber and Silver alert cases.

For a demonstration of HAWKEYE or to inquire about our tiered pricing, reseller, distributor and installer discounts, or to simply learn more about Pelican Technologies, please contact us at (866)-274-9483 or visit us online at www.technopelican.com or follow us on twitter (@technopelican).

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