



PRESS INFORMATION

CCTV FOR MAXIMUM RELIABILITY AND SAFETY

Following the serious fire with 39 deaths in 1999, the Mont Blanc tunnel is now being updated with the latest safety and security systems. Given the unfortunate history of the 11.8 km long tunnel which forms one of the main road links between France and Italy, the new CCTV system has been designed to include a 4-fold level of redundancy in order to maintain operation under all conceivable circumstances. The main contractor for the project is plettac sécurité et systèmes, the French plettac electronics subsidiary.

The two tunnel entrances each have their own self-contained security management centre with CCTV equipment controlled using the highly flexible computer-supported video management system plettac open security architecture. Local distributors transmit all camera signals to both control centres so that even if there is a fault at one, the other can still receive video pictures from the tunnel. In addition, both centres are in direct contact with each other all the time via a special cable link that enables mutual exchange of data and video pictures.

Each control centre has access to all the cameras in the system and these can be selected and switched by mouse click on a map of the tunnel displayed on a workstation monitor. The control rooms each have 12 monitors for traffic monitoring as well as a further six screens for displaying and managing alarms and hold-ups in the traffic flow. An emergency room half way through the tunnel is manned round the clock with rescuers and this too is covered by the video system.

In all the CCTV system has more than 200 high resolution plettac model FAC 838 colour cameras in special housings. These are made from highly resistant steel alloy and have fans to protect against the effects of moisture and heat. Remote control interfaces allow camera setups to be altered to meet changes in conditions, for example to increase the light sensitivity if the tunnel lighting fails or to switch over to infrared operation if visibility is inhibited by smoke.

All video pictures are recorded on digital media and retained for a specific period. Similarly all operating processes, fault reports and alarms are saved in the system for a short time so that if necessary both - any given situation and the security staff's response - can be reconstructed and analysed.

ENDS

386 words approx