

Top Video Surveillance Industry Predictions

Written by Bob Snyder
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IMS Research shares the hottest video surveillance trends for the year ahead. Here we abridge their projections, but give you a link at the bottom of the article if you wish more depth.

1. City Surveillance Looks to Wireless Video

City surveillance (municipalities) happen to be the fastest growing vertical market for video surveillance (e.g., HikVision, a China-based video surveillance equipment manufacturer, has been appointed general contractor on an \$800 million safe city project in China.) In other regions, such as the Middle East, wireless infrastructure is used to stream video surveillance live from police vehicles to command centres. This integration between mobile and fixed locations has the potential to improve crime detection and prevention, providing more accurate intelligence to the police agencies using the technology.

So what, if anything, will slow the growth of wireless video? According to IMS Research, only the knowledge and skill set of the systems integrators is holding back the growth in wireless video surveillance. If you can grow your skill set, the business is there.



2. HDcctv Joins the Fray in 2011

The HDcctv Alliance was formed in 2009 to develop and manage the definition of an open standard for the transmission of HDcctv using industry standard coaxial cable. HDcctv technology is built upon the HD-SDI standard pioneered in the pro broadcast market.

In terms of sales, 2010 was a muted year for HDcctv branded products due to low product availability. However, IMS Research predicts that HDcctv will be a strong trend impacting the video surveillance market in 2011 as vendors begin to release HDcctv compliant products.

3.The Mist Clears on Cloud Based Video Surveillance

The hype around Video Surveillance as a Service (VSaaS) or cloud based video surveillance is not unfounded: the recurring monthly revenue business model is very attractive to telcos/ISPs, central monitoring stations and installer/integrators. The ability to achieve remote redundancy of video data, true 'plug n' play' installation, remote access to the video, and a lower cost video surveillance system are all factors that will encourage this market to grow.

Looking ahead to 2011, certain applications of VSaaS are more likely to take off than others. The most successful will be customers with multiple sites that each require (four or less) cameras. These niche applications include mobile phone masts, chains of small retail shops, oil rigs and electricity sub-stations. The cost of installing hundreds (if not thousands) of traditional DVR systems across multiple sites can be reduced by having a VSaaS solution.

An increasing number of VSaaS providers offer the following services integrated with their solution: energy management, point of sale (POS), video analytics, home automation and access control. The belief is that end-users will be more likely to adopt a solution with a strong value-add, rather than just a video surveillance or security application, particularly if cost is the primary decision factor.

For the time being, niche applications will have the greatest initial traction.

4. Video Analytics: To Security & Beyond

The VCA market is far from the potential predicted a few years back and many have found the last two years tough. So where is the new potential for VCA?

IMS Research predicts 2011 will be the year that VCA looks beyond security. Visually intelligent devices is the name used to describe the use of video analytics in market such as automotive, defence, medical, consumer and digital signage. For example, in digital signage, video analytics can recognise certain personal characteristics to provide a more targeted advert.

5. From HD to 3D

In the consumer and professional broadcast space, 3D technology gained increasing acceptance and mindshare during 2010, and recently IMS Research observed a number of examples of 3D technology beginning to penetrate the video surveillance market.

The key benefit that 3D offers is depth perception. The extra dimension of depth could pave the way for more accurate and more advanced analytics algorithms. One prime example is the distinction between flat and non-flat objects; confusion between shadows and solid bodies could be significantly reduced via the introduction of a depth dimension.

IMS Research does not believe that 3D technology will gain mass acceptance amongst vendors or end-users in the security industry in 2011. The high price of 3D displays, the high cost of cameras, the initial lack of vendor support and technological conservatism inherent within the security industry will all be limiting factors. 2011 will herald a start as manufacturers will begin to experiment with 3D and begin to plan 3D into their technology roadmaps.

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