

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The SentryScope from EnVisage

When it comes to CCTV, the commonly sought-after goals are increased image quality, flexibility and the ability to not miss any relevant or important activity. With the SentryScope from EnVisage, these goals move a little closer to reality.

Whilst dome cameras and PTZ units have been trying to ensure that one camera can protect a larger area for many years now, the issue is always that something will end being missed. Attempts to create larger viewing areas have often been at the expense of overall quality, and digital zooming tends to result in very pixellated images. In short, the compromises often eradicate the benefits. However, the SentryScope, available through EnVisage, could be about to change that .

A different view

SentryScope is one of those products which is fairly hard to define, because there is nothing else like it in the CCTV industry. Essentially, the SentryScope is an ultra-high resolution camera which creates a panoramic image with a 90° field of view. What you end up with is a long thin image, which you might think is impractical. However, the user can identify any part of that image and zoom in up to 100x. They can also pan around the rest of the image - either with live images or retrospectively on a recorded image.

To understand better what you are getting, it is worth considering some of these statements. A typical high resolution frame of video will contain around 300,000 pixels. However, a single image from the SentryScope contains 21 million pixels. That's a seriously high resolution - 70 times higher than a very good high resolution camera. Now, some will argue that such a figure is going totally overboard.

However, the software which supports the SentryScope allows users to digitally zoom in on any area of interest in the overall image. The zoom ratio can be 100x, and this resolution is needed to keep image quality at such zoom ratios! Suddenly, having an image of 21 million pixels starts to make sense. Because of the importance of resolution, the camera is monochrome, making it suitable for 24 hour surveillance.

It is worth remembering that the camera can capture images of areas up to 250 feet in width, and the whole image is recorded. If, for example, you pan and zoom a dome or a functioned camera, any part of



the scene not in the field of view is lost. However, the SentryScope captures the whole image all of the time.

For example, a railway station might have a number of platforms, and traditional CCTV design would demand a camera at each one. If functionality is required, that means that domes or fully functioned cameras are needed. However, one SentryScope could be used to view all the areas. The resultant image would be a 90° view including all platforms, but the zoom capability is so high that an operator could select each platform individually, zoom in to achieve a dedicated high quality image of any area, and pan around it.

So, how does the camera work? In simple terms, a camera module is fitted in the SentryScope parallel to the required scene. A motorised mirror then rotates, effectively allowing the camera to scan a 90° view in one second. The image is then viewed via the SentryWare software on a standard PC. The software allows the image to be examine in very close detail, and pictures can also be manipulated with regard to parameters such as contrast, brightness, etc.. This is vital if a user is seeking information such as vehicle registration plates, positive identification of individuals and so on.

■ *This is an actual Sentry Scope image, and gives an idea of picture formats.*



■ SPECIFICATION

Model: SentryScope
Supplier: EnVisage
Lens: 50mm or 85mm
Resolution: 50mm - 6144 x 2048 pixels
 85mm - 10240 x 2048 pixels
Field of View: 36° - 90°
Digital Zoom: 100x
Image rate: 50-120 images per minute
Sensitivity: 0.8 Lux
Focus: Auto or manual
Power: 18-28V DC

For further information, please
 circle PSI Enquiry No 109,
 or alternatively visit
www.securityweb.co.uk and use
 the on-line response form.

Other features include video motion detection for both alarm events or searching, and recording can be continuous, scheduled or on alarm. Parameters which can be adjusted via the software include recording quality, focus (the camera features autofocus functionality), image archiving, field of view (this can be reduced from 90° if required), etc..

The SentryScope really comes into its own when the performance is assessed. The initial image forms a strip across the middle of the screen in a letterbox format presenting a panoramic view. Once the user identifies something they want to investigate, a simple point and click operation zooms the camera in. The image stays sharp and clear, with no noticeable deterioration until the very edge of the digital zoom

range, when slight graininess starts to appear.

From a general street scene, we managed to zoom in close enough to an individual a fair distance away. The image was pin sharp. Given some of the offerings put out by high quality CCTV systems, the quality was phenomenal. Add to this the ability to pan around the scene, and adjust the image if necessary, and the SentryScope is very impressive.

Footage can be pulled off to a CD or DVD (dependent upon the PC being used). When clips are archived, the software automatically writes a viewer with it, and this auto-starts. This means that a user can save footage to a CD, take it to any PC, and investigate the video. The ability to zoom in and out, pan and manage the video remain intact!

■ PSI RATINGS

Product Design	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ □ □
Features	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ □ □
Benefits	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ □ □
Image Quality	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ □ □
Application Range	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ □ □ □ □ □
Installer Interest	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ □ □
Potential	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ □ □

In summary

Let's not beat around the bush here; the SentryScope isn't cheap, but quality this good never will be. It is not ideal for all applications - sites such as ports, airports, goods yards, indeed anywhere that requires large areas to be monitored will be ideal for it. In the right application, it offers a level of quality which must be experienced to be believed. The digital zoom is breathtaking, and for all the right reasons.

Innovation is the lifeblood of the industry, and the SentryScope takes video management to the next level.

