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Guard monitoring technologies

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Physical security is often still the most effective measure to protect an area, particularly when it comes to residential estates where there may be a high volume of foot and vehicle traffic at all times of the day and night. Security guards are an indispensable part of a physical security strategy, but as always, when it comes to the human element, they can cause more harm by not doing their jobs properly than if they weren't around at all.

When a breach does happen, the easy way out is often to blame a guard rather than investigate whether there were other reasons for a lack of security. This can be easy to do if there is no way to determine if guards were where they were supposed to be or whether they were slacking off.

Guard monitoring technologies have become an essential tool to 'watch the watchers', as well as the converse: to protect guards from spurious accusations by residents or estate management that they weren't doing their job. Hi-Tech Security Solutions asked three leading providers of guard monitoring technologies to share their thoughts on some of the challenges, and their particular solutions.

Econz Wireless

Econz Wireless identifies major challenges as being guards' attempts to sleep instead of guarding, or being at the wrong place. It offers the Timecard GPS, Timecard Lite and Eservices solutions, which use GPS and job tracking within a given area, or according to a job dispatched. By providing real-time alerts and tracking, time sheets are eliminated with clock-in/out, breadcrumb tracking, etc.

Econz Timecard GPS and Timecard Lite may be used for one or more guards, and the location can be smart fenced to ensure attendance on site, or at the correct positions at predetermined times. Features available include clock-in lock, pre-determined clock-in times and locations, all which can be seen from the control room.

Once a smart fence is predetermined, if the guard strays outside of that virtual fence it will be shown at the call centre or supervisors' devices via an alert so action will be taken. Similarly, if the guard has not moved for a preset length of time, an alert will be sent to the call centre or supervisor, as well as the guard.

Their locations are tracked using GPS technology and automatic checks on location, breadcrumb trails, etc. can all be preset.

Econz provides a full workforce management system in the form of Eservices, which does everything from simple tracking to job alerts, reports, signature and/or photo sign off, inventory for parts, and alerts so that supervisors can check job management, breadcrumb trails and timesheet clock-in/out. The solutions may be fully integrated with existing payroll, job and workforce management and time and attendance systems.

For more information contact:

- Bette Kun, Econz Wireless, +27 (0)10 500 9637, bettek@econz.com, www.econz.co.za

Econz Wireless

Tel: +27 10 500 9637

Email: sales@econz.com

www: www.econz.co.za

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