

CorrectionalNEWS

design+construction+operations

An Emlen Publication | www.correctionalnews.com



2023 SECURITY ELECTRONICS CONTRACTORS REPORT

This report is published by Correctional News, the information source for the correctional construction market.
Visit us online at www.correctionalnews.com

Company	Geographic Area Covered	Fast Facts
<p>Accurate Controls Ripon, Wis. www.accuratecontrols.com</p>	<p>U.S. & International</p>	<p>Developer of automated security systems since 1982.</p>
<p>Black Creek Integrated Systems Corp. Irondale, AL www.blackcreekisc.com</p>	<p>U.S. & International</p>	<p>Turnkey source for modern security control systems and software solutions.</p>
<p>CML Security Erie, Colo. www.cmlsecurity.us</p>	<p>U.S.</p>	<p>Industry-leading security electronics integrator and maintenance provider.</p>
<p>Cornerstone Detention Madison, Ala. www.cornerstonedetention.com</p>	<p>U.S. & International</p>	<p>Global leader in detention/security contracting, manufacturing and supply.</p>
<p>Esitech Inc. Richmond, Va. www.esitechinc.com</p>	<p>Continental U.S.</p>	<p>Designs, makes and installs integrated security control systems.</p>
<p>Justice Systems Corp. Kent, Wash. www.justicesys.com</p>	<p>Global</p>	<p>Integrated security for corrections, courts and other industries.</p>
<p>P2 Controls Malvern, Pa. www.p2controls.com</p>	<p>Western U.S., Pacific Coas</p>	<p>Leading security system integrator from juvenile facilities to super-maximum.</p>
<p>Security Automation Systems, Inc. Indianapolis, Ind. www.securityautomationsystems.com</p>	<p>U.S. & International</p>	<p>Non-proprietary touchscreen control and electric pulse fence systems.</p>
<p>Simpson Security Systems Inc. Alexandria, La. www.simpsonsecurity.com</p>	<p>Midwestern U.S.</p>	<p>Providing security and special systems solutions in Central Louisiana since 1991.</p>
<p>South Western Communications Inc. (SWC) Decatur, Ala. www.swc.net</p>	<p>Southern U.S.</p>	<p>Established source for physical security and life safety solutions.</p>
<p>Southern Folger Detention Equipment Company San Antonio, Texas www.southernfolger.com</p>	<p>U.S.</p>	<p>High-security products combined with specialized correction services.</p>
<p>Sustainable Security Solutions San Antonio, Texas www.s3det.com</p>	<p>U.S.</p>	<p>Installer of security electronics and detention equipment in corrections settings.</p>
<p>Sweeper Metal Fabricators Corp. Drumright, Okla. www.sweepermetal.com</p>	<p>U.S.</p>	<p>Single source for jail doors, prison doors, detention doors and other needs.</p>
<p>Unique Security Inc. Montgomery, Ala. www.uniquesecurityinc.com</p>	<p>U.S.</p>	<p>Provider of security upgrades, preventive maintenance and integration systems.</p>
<p>Stanley Security Fishers, Ind. www.stanleycorrectionalservices.com</p>	<p>Eastern U.S. & International</p>	<p>Comprehensive suite of security products, software, integrated systems and service.</p>
<p>Montgomery Technology Systems Greenville, Ala. www.montgomerytechnology.com</p>	<p>U.S.</p>	<p>Helping expand security through high-tech visitation products and services.</p>

Electronic Currents

Three Security Electronic Pros Share Their Opinions and Expertise

By Zach Chouteau

For the 2023 edition of CN's Security Electronics roundtable, we tuned in with Stephanie Barsella, Vice President of Sales for TimeKeeping Systems; Nathan Skipper, VP of Sales for Montgomery Technology Inc. (MTI); and Clint Wemhoff, Security Electronics Department Manager for CML Security.

The trio of industry stalwarts shared detailed thoughts on trending security topics, do's and don'ts and prognostications on future waves on the SEC landscape.

What makes Security Electronics so vital to correctional facilities in 2023, and how do you think the field has changed over the past decade or so?

Barsella: As facilities' requirements increase, and staffing continues to be an issue, security electronics is one of the areas correctional facilities look to for solutions. Legal mandates, operational efficiency, and



especially staffing – all of these are creating the need for greater efficiency. Security electronics and especially integration are game changers for improving correctional operations.

Skipper: Security electronics have become an assumed part of the security for correctional facilities. Over the last decade, I've seen correctional professionals become very familiar with all of the industry buzz words: PLCs, touchscreens, HMI, etc. These

professionals have become more savvy about what is needed (and not needed) in a control system. This has been a great help for us as a provider, as those professionals have become familiar with what is needed for the maintenance and ongoing support of their systems. For example, there is more awareness around the fact that an integral component of the control system, the touchscreen workstation, should be upgraded on a recurring schedule, just like the office computers they already upgrade on a schedule.

Wemhoff: One of the main reasons for Security Electronics in a correctional facility is to create efficiencies with day-to-day operations. It allows operators to observe activities within the facility at all times, as well as be able to get personnel anywhere they are needed at a moment's notice. With the developing work-force challenges, ensuring a facility can operate efficiently as well as safe – is an ever-increasing concern when the work force is new or inexperienced. It is our hope that these systems continue to provide efficiencies and safeguards that are now more important than ever.

One of the biggest changes in my opinion is switching from analog cameras to IP technology. This has a huge advantage for the facility to be able provide the best available surveillance and storage. We are seeing more and more cameras technologies being implemented to improve the field of view and quality of video. Digital analytics are assisting in event alarms and recording and we will see a continuation of this push going forward.

In your opinion, what is the most significant trend today with security electronics within justice and corrections?

Barsella: At Guard1, our involvement is from the perspective of inmate tracking, personal duress alarms and documenting well-being checks and services with RFID and mobile devices. The trend here is that facilities need and want these solutions. For us, the pace of new implementations and system upgrades is increasing.

Basically, customers want more. A facility that in the past has done simple cell checks with a basic device now wants real time RF inmate tracking. Facilities that had basic panic alarms in the past now want real time location. When an emergency happens they want to know immediately where it happened and whose device is reporting it.

Skipper: There are two significant trends developing in security electronics today, both of which primarily involve video surveillance, but which have wider implications for the integrated control system. Video Surveillance manufacturers have widely adopted OnVIF Profile S as a standard for integration. This has been significant for wider integration into the security electronics system because it allows the integrator to directly control and access streams from video surveillance devices without any additional third-party software. A second and related development is the rapid advancements that have been made around analytics. Video surveillance manufacturers are regularly adding new features for analytics, and they are standardizing these features through OnVIF so that any manufacturer or integrator can access them.

Wemhoff: We are seeing most facilities bringing their IT department into network/hardware conversations. With technology changing at such a rapid pace it's great to see different departments work together and achieve a common goal.

If you had to choose the most vital "do" and "don't" moves for today's facilities implementing or expanding security electronic systems, what would they be?

Barsella: First and foremost, you should have a champion for your project. Our most successful projects always have a project champion! You want someone from your facility's leadership, someone who is engaged and active, involved in overseeing the project and overcoming the inevitable obstacles. In addition to a champion, planning well in advance and making sure everyone involved is informed and prepared, always makes a big difference.

That goes double for the IT team! Involve them early, get their input and buy-in for the project.

Second, you need to plan for the future! Your systems are going to grow, probably faster than you think, and in ways you cannot anticipate. So for example, if you are installing cable, a spare cable run is a fractional cost. Often in existing facilities, infrastructure is the constraint, something we have to work around. So if you are building a new facility, allow extra space in your server room and your wiring closets. Don't make the mistake of not providing room for system growth. Your facility's needs will evolve over time.

Skipper: There are three principles when considering the design of security electronics. First, use widely accepted and scalable infrastructure. We recommend selecting electronics that support IP-based communications, as this medium is widely accepted, both for manufacturers and installers. Second, select products which allow for least-common-denominator integration. In other words, the simpler the integration method, the better. We recommend selecting products based on whether they can integrate to other systems through industry recognized standards. For



Photo Credit: MTI

example, most lighting systems implement BACnet/IP for integration. Most video surveillance systems implement OnVIF profile S. When standards are implemented, it minimizes the finger pointing that can surround the use of third-party drivers and APIs. Third, we recommend having a plan for upgrade/replacement. A common plan is to replace computers every 5 years. Also, don't forget software related updates, as these can improve performance and patch

security risks.

Wemhoff: Each system is only as good as its network infrastructure. There are a ton of different ways to approach each project. Having a solid network sets the foundation to build upon in the future. There are only going to be more and more devices added to each network as time goes on. As much as technology progresses and facilities are interested in new features and systems – it really all comes back to IT technology and how robust the network is.

Does your firm have any new/recent projects, partnerships or other news you think the industry might want to know about?

Barsella: We are constantly developing new products and processes, both within our own company and partnering with other technology providers. These new items will build on our current products as well as bring new equipment and technologies to our customers, increasing their efficiency and productivity.

We've done several hundred new projects over the past few years. Increasingly, we are also replacing existing personal alarm systems, with updated systems that identify the location when there is an emergency. More and more, we find that correctional customers are realizing that inmate tracking is now a viable, reliable technology, so we are implementing that, too. Finally, there is RFID inmate tracking and documenting officer tasks, something that Guard1 does with rugged mobile devices, and we are upgrading many customers who adopted the PIPE and have used it successfully for many years.

Customers are looking for more and expecting more. For us at least, that is driving our business growth.

Skipper: Over the past couple of years, MTI has been broadening the platforms on which our system is available. Our Human-Machine-Interface (HMI) software, ProVision, is now available on Android devices. While we've had mobile options for our control system since 2003, the inclusion of Android devices makes this functionality more cost effective and provides a wider range of hardware configuration options. We also continually expand our integration capabilities. Over the last five years, we've added integration with industry standards like

BACnet/IP, SNMP, and OnVIF Profile S.

Wemhoff: Drone detection is also on our radar. Our industry needs to react to the increased need for drone detection as part of a site security package. While there are great systems coming to market – it will be important to recognize the importance of integration to the Security Electronics system. There are quite a few facilities that are understaffed, therefore when we integrate with these systems the facility doesn't have to try and find another person to add to their staff.

Looking down the road a bit, how do you think security electronics will transform in our industry over the next 5-10 years?

Barsella: Security electronics will grow and provide a range of solutions that are in place or currently in development. RFID inmate tracking will be pervasive.

Skipper: Over the next 5-10 years, I think security electronics providers can add great value to the industry through the simplification and tight integration of analytics, whether it be through the features provided by video surveillance systems, or the use of audio and even metadata analytics.

Wemhoff: There will be a sea change in a movement for all devices to be IP based. Also, with more and more devices being added to the network, and IT departments getting more involved, network security is going to take a higher precedence. We could see a huge departure from the PLC driven platforms in our industry is used to and a movement toward IP based I/O. We are running on PLC technology that is based on industrial control processes, many of these technologies and components will reach end of life – forcing our industry to think toward the next technology. Networks are also now becoming more robust to allow more thin-client applications on control (HMI) interface where in the past latency would have been an issue.

And addressing the obvious elephant in the room is storage, where we may see more facilities opening their networks to be able to use cloud services storage. While it is an awkward conversation in relation to our industry peers, overall cost of storage will be a discussion point. Cost of replacement (storage) will outweigh reoccurring operational costs of service/subscription.

SEC Roundup

News & Trends from Security Electronic Firms Around the U.S. & Beyond

By CN Staff

TimeKeeping Systems, Inc. Achieves SOC 2 Type 2 Compliance

TimeKeeping Systems, Inc., the developer of GUARD1 Real Time and GUARD1 Plus software, has successfully completed its SOC 2 Type 2 audit, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to data security in the correctional and behavioral healthcare markets.

The audit, conducted by leading compliance assessor A-LIGN, verified that the company's infrastructure, software, people, data, policies, procedures, and operations have been formally reviewed



to ensure that customers' personal assets are safeguarded.

"As a company that serves the corrections, behavioral healthcare, and juvenile justice facilities, protecting our customers' information is extremely

important," said Barry Markwitz, President of TimeKeeping Systems, Inc. "Achieving SOC 2 Type 2 compliance validates our commitment to data security and protection with third party checks and balances."

Established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the SOC 2 examination is designed for organizations of any size, regardless of industry and scope, to ensure the personal assets of their potential and existing customers are protected. SOC 2 reports are recognized globally and affirm that a company's infrastructure, software, people, data, policies, procedures and operations have been formally reviewed.

"A SOC 2 audit is a statement about an organization's commitment to protecting their information," said Stephanie Oyler-Rankin, SOC Practice Lead at A-LIGN. "As a trusted third-party assessment firm, A-LIGN independently evaluates client data processes and procedures, governance on internal controls,

and security posture. TimeKeeping Systems, Inc.'s SOC 2 report validates its commitment to data security and protection, as well as compliance with critical standards to mitigate cybersecurity threats."

"We are proud of this achievement and will continue to prioritize the security and protection of our customers' information," said Markwitz. "Our SOC 2 Type 2 attestation assures you that Guard1 security, procedures, practices, and internal controls are audited by an independent, licensed third-party organization."

HomeWAV Names New COO

HomeWAV, a leader in providing simple, secure inmate communication solutions, recently announced Morteza Sahebkar has been promoted to Chief Operations Officer.

Ranking second highest in the organization as Chief Operations Officer (COO), Morteza will oversee daily administrative and operational functions to support HomeWAV's company vision and execute business plans. Morteza will be dedicated to attending to all internal affairs, serving as a supportive executive leader to continue empowering each department in strategic initiatives and business growth.

Recently, the Product Development, Product Operations, and Customer Service departments merged to become a unified Information Technology department to unify and streamline business operations by becoming more agile. Aligning with recent company growth and organizational changes, in addition to his previous direct reports, Morteza will also oversee Marketing, Accounting & Finance, and Human Resources. To ensure all operations continue running smoothly, Morteza will maintain his former role as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) as well.

HomeWAV Chief Operations Officer Morteza Sahebkar quoted Steve Jobs, saying, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do." Morteza went on to say it's important to have a passion for what you do and to lead with enthusiasm. "When you love your job, you're more likely to put in the effort and dedication required to achieve great results for the company you are working for. Stay determined and focused, and never give up on your goals."

follow us on



To get Correctional News tweets to your phone, simply text

"FOLLOW CorrectionsNews" to 40404

Photo Credit: HomeWAV



Joining HomeWAV in 2015 after graduating from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale with a master’s degree in electrical and computer engineering, Morteza was initially hired in an entry-level position as a Software Developer and served in various other roles until he was promoted to Chief Technology Officer in 2019.

“Morteza has been a significant contributor to growing the company since the first day he started,” said HomeWAV CEO/President John Best. “From organizational strategy, product design and development, company culture, and beyond, he even spent several months answering calls to help our customers. Morteza is the embodiment of our core values of integrity, innovation, and impact.”

Founded in 2011, HomeWAV LLC has remained the industry leader in providing simple, secure inmate communication and technology solutions to correctional facilities across the country. Headquartered in St. Louis, MO, our all-in-one patented platform is the first of its kind to satisfy the growing demands in the correctional industry.

HomeWAV has also partnered with a growing number of facilities over the past several months, including the recently completed installation of a new inmate communication system at Bradford County Jail in Starke, Florida for inmates to connect with their loved ones.

Expanding the number of HomeWAV’s facility partners serviced within the Florida market, Bradford County Jail holds up to 185 inmates that can now utilize the all-in-one inmate communications system. Through 24 HomePAS™ (Protected Access System) kiosks and 185 ComPAS™ (Portable Access System) tablets that provide inmates with a variety of tools and resources to aid in education, self-improvement, and mental health, HomeWAV is now providing voice calling, video visitation, and an investigative suite of services.

Selecting HomeWAV for its innovative all-in-one platform, responsive customer service, state-of-the-art investigative services, and lower rates to connect loved ones, Bradford County Jail is

ready to offer comprehensive technology solutions for its facility staff, inmates, and visitors.

“Our reason for choosing HomeWAV was for their all-in-one solution kiosk that we felt was a technology upgrade that is providing lower rates on phone and video calls for the community,” said Bradford County Major McKinley. “Also, the promise of client and customer service are very important for us moving forward. Having a one-to-one tablet ratio also helps our inmates better themselves with a variety of programs. While just starting with HomeWAV, the ease of use on the administration platform has already streamlined our facility in a number of ways.”

Back in January, HomeWAV celebrated a successful past year providing over 27.5 million

communications nationwide and reaching milestones in company growth.

Senstar Advances Symphony Platform

Senstar, a leading provider of sensing and information management solutions for the protection of critical sites and infrastructure, is providing a glimpse into the near future for the Senstar Symphony Common Operating Platform at ISC West this week, in Las Vegas. The technical preview includes a new customizable workflow engine shown as a solution for logistics operators, an improved video pipeline subsystem, and a new mobile app for remote management.

“Senstar is pleased to be showing significant advancements to our Symphony Common Operating Platform,” stated Jeremy Weese, Chief Technology Officer at Senstar. “Our software team



Photo Credit: Senstar

has been developing a new workflow engine which will allow integrators to visually design custom workflows that address customer-specific problems.”

The Senstar Symphony Common Operating Platform: With innovative perimeter intrusion detection systems (including fence sensors, buried sensors, and above ground sensors), intelligent video management, video analytics, and access control, Senstar offers a comprehensive suite of proven, integrated solutions that reduce complexity, improve performance and unify support. For

over 40 years, Senstar has been protecting organizations around the world, with a special focus in utilities, logistics, corrections, and energy markets.

AeroDefense Integrates O.W.L.'s Radar

AeroDefense, provider of fixed and mobile Radio Frequency (RF) spectrum sensing drone and pilot detection solutions, has announced its integration of Observation Without Limits (O.W.L.) radar ground and air detection capability with their AirWarden™ system.

Some critical infrastructure entities require a multi-layer technology approach to combat the threat of unauthorized drones and people. An AeroDefense AirWarden RF spectrum sensing system integrated with O.W.L.'s leading radar technology offers a solution that detects both RF-based and radio-silent, small to large, low speed to high speed drones and their operators as soon as the drone is turned on.

To meet sophisticated drone detection users' requests for as much data as possible to help guide their security teams' responses, the integrated system presents each detection type and method in an easily identifiable manner on AirWarden's intuitive user interface.

AeroDefense Founding CEO, Linda Ziembra, says, "By combining the strengths of both systems, AirWarden offers our correctional facility customers a contraband prevention platform to detect and prevent airborne contraband deliveries by drone and ground-based contraband deliveries by people or vehicles. It also gives our utility customers an integrated platform to detect both human and drone traffic at unprotected electric substations."

The integration supports the O.W.L. GroundAware® family of 2D and 3D digital beamforming radar systems used by critical infrastructure and government sectors around the world.

"We have learned firsthand that layered security is essential for comprehensive drone situational awareness. We are pleased to partner with AeroDefense to provide their customers an added layer of low-altitude airspace surveillance, plus simultaneous ground coverage for detecting and tracking drone operators," says Tom Gates, O.W.L. president.

The integrated system was on display at O.W.L.'s exhibit in booth 11099 at ISC West, the comprehensive security industry conference that took place in Las Vegas March 29-30.

AeroDefense offers fixed and mobile drone detection solutions for stadiums, airports, correctional facilities, military forces, and other critical infrastructure. AeroDefense's patented Radio Frequency (RF) based drone detection system, AirWarden™, detects, classifies, locates, and tracks both drone and pilot

“We have learned firsthand that layered security is essential for comprehensive drone situational awareness. We are pleased to partner with AeroDefense to provide their customers an added layer of low-altitude airspace surveillance, plus simultaneous ground coverage for detecting and tracking drone operators.”

simultaneously, providing actionable intelligence to respond effectively (and safely) to drone threats. Because AirWarden passively detects drone signals via RF spectrum sensing, it recognizes devices it has not seen before, unlike systems reliant on signature databases, and does not violate federal criminal surveillance laws. Based in Oceanport, NJ, AeroDefense is a privately held company with all engineering, manufacturing, and support based in the U.S.

OWL is a business formed by Dynetics, a Leidos company, with 3,000+ staff members and state-of-the-art R&D and manufacturing facilities in Huntsville, Alabama. OWL leverages 48 years of radar and integration experience with U.S. defense and intelligence community customers to develop, manufacture, install, and support the OWL GroundAware® family of 2D and 3D digital beamforming radar systems.

The Sky's the Limit

Drone Defense is Key When it Comes to Perimeter Protection

By CN Staff

Those tasked with protecting correctional facilities in 2023 know all too well the threats posed by high-tech RC drones, which have only continued to escalate along with the continually evolving technology behind them. With that in mind, CN tapped the mind of SkySafe CEO Grant Jordan, for his insights on this vital security issue.

SkySafe is the lone airspace security technology company to create and operate a comprehensive, city-wide sensor network that allows organizations to detect, identify, track, and analyze the drones in their airspace, including the location of the operator. This cutting edge, Cloud-based SaaS platform puts real-time and historical drone data at your fingertips, without the need to acquire, install, or maintain expensive hardware.

CN touched base with Jordan on the importance of drone defense, how it's transformed in recent years and some other vital topics tied to defending our skies from unwanted intruders.

CN: *What is the most crucial aspect of modern perimeter defense with today's correctional venues?*

JORDAN: The popularization of drones in recent years has started to wreak havoc on correctional venues. Drugs, weapons, phones, and other types of contraband are being flown into prisons at a staggering rate. As a result, airspace security is the most crucial aspect of modern perimeter defense for these facilities.

CN: *How do you think perimeter security has changed over the past decade or so, and how has SkySafe responded to these changes?*

JORDAN: Guards, gates, and guns are no longer sufficient means for perimeter security. With drones readily available for criminal activities, correctional facilities need to secure their airspace. SkySafe has responded to these changes with SkySafe Cloud. SkySafe Cloud is a cloud-based solution for drone detection and defense. When a facility's airspace is secured by SkySafe Cloud, officials receive real-time alerts when their airspace has been compromised by an unauthorized drone. They can login to the SaaS platform to see the drone's flight path, the location of the operator, and historical data on previous flights.

CN: *Why is effective drone defense so crucial to correctional security and safety in 2023?*

JORDAN: Nearly 10 million consumer drones will be shipped by 2030, according to one estimate. If correctional facilities are unable to secure their airspace, contraband drops via drones will only increase. Drone defense is crucial due to the threat these contraband drops pose to facilities. Weapons, drugs, and other illicit materials can incite



Photo Credit (left): SkySafe



violence and cause overdoses and deaths. Correctional venues need to invest in drone defense now to protect staff and inmates.

CN: *What advice would you provide to a detention facility seeking to quickly improve their perimeter defense?*

JORDAN: If a detention facility is looking for a quick solution, they should consider cloud-based airspace security technology. Cloud-based drone defense relies on broad-area sensor networks as opposed to the purchase and installation of hardware on premise. The airspace in question can be quickly secured by sensors that are deployed to the best locations, for the highest performance.

CN: *In what ways do you anticipate the drone threat to evolve in coming years, and how can the industry best react to this possible issue?*

JORDAN: New makes and models of drones are constantly entering the marketplace. Correctional facilities would be wise to select a drone defense solution that is continually upgraded to ensure optimal drone detection. In addition, some drone defense solutions only detect one type of drone. Savvy criminals are likely to select a drone for a contraband drop that is not as popular and easy to detect. Solutions like SkySafe Cloud detect drones beyond just the most popular makes and models.