Product focus

An intercom choice that's an easy call to make

Roy Cooper, Professional Security's Managing Director, took the opportunity to have a close look at the IX intercom and security system which was on show on the Aiphone stand at Security TWENTY 16.

The IX system's audio and video master station, the IX-MV, with 3.5-inch LCD display for desk stand, or wall-mountable

We don't as a rule test products but the enthusiam of the guys at Aiphone was infectious and so I decided to run the IP network-based IX system through its paces. Aiphone is a brand that many in the UK may still not have heard of and yet it is the most respected and reliable brand of communication systems in the world. The Aiphone product range includes one-to-one door entry kits and sophisticated video entry security systems for luxury apartment buildings, but they are particularly proud of the recently introduced IX system.

System overview

Simply put, the scalable IX system has been designed to provide communication between an infinite number of door stations and master intercoms. It offers video door entry, internal communication, help points and paging.

Ease of use

The first thing that struck me is how easy the IX system is to use. The master intercom stations are equipped with an intuitive menu that allows you to effortlessly scroll through a list of functions to achieve maximum benefit from the system. The hot keys of each master station, can be programmed as shortcuts to call specific intercom units or to page alll, whilst its clear, sharp display provides information on a current call which might be in a queue and these can be listed in order of priority, namly 'Normal', 'Priority'

or 'Urgent'. The Aiphone mobile App, which was on show for the first time at Security TWENTY 16, introduces a high level of flexibility and offers obvious benefits to users. The free App enables authorised users to remotely utilise many of the IX system's key features via their Android and Apple smartphones and tablets, including viewing visitors and opening doors.

Ease of installation

The Aiphone sales people were also keen to point out how easy the IX system is to install and if necessary, to expand. This is because it is equipped with PoE and so a single

cable connected to the network switch from the IX unit is all that is needed to get a master station or intercom unit up and running. Installation costs, and indeed the total cost of ownership, is further minimised by the fact that each intercom unit has its own memory and so when a system is expanded, there is no need to incur costs to increase servers or additional controllers. The IX being a P2P (Point to Point) system is a major contributing factor to why it is a fraction of the cost of other IP intercom solutions.

Features which catch the eye

It's clear that much thought has gone into the design of the IX system master stations. Depending on your operational requirements, the IX system gives you many options on how you might want calls to be dealt with. You can, for example, specify that calls to a master station should be forwarded to another master station if it is engaged. The video door stations are equipped with cameras that have an 82 degrees field of view which provides clear, crisp images for visually verifying the caller. The video door stations are equipped with a separate ONVIF Profile S video stream that is active 24 hours even during use of the system. This video stream can be integrated into an NVR or a video management platform to help IX become an integral part of total security solution.

Product focus

The IX Series is a network-based communication and security system featuring video entry security, internal communication, emergency stations, and paging. All units and app (pictured previous page) in the systems can unlock doors remotely on a network, assist on-site visitors from an off-site location, broadcast emergency announcements, and communicate using a PoE network

Photos courtesy of Aiphone

The IX-DF stainless steel, flush mounted, audio and video intercom. IP addressable stations provide network communication

Seamless integration
IX system has the capability to work in harmony with other systems. It is perhaps one of the key reasons why IX is increasingly being specified for demanding, complex projects. Aiphone is proactive in its approach to achieving a high level of integration with IP cameras and video management systems (VMS) from companies such as Avigilon, ExacqVision, and Milestone Systems. Access Control integration is avalible via Lenel OnGuard security management platform which enables users to place calls to door stations via the OnGuard Map View or Status Tree. Users can also access a wide range of other features and functions of the IX system via the OnGuard graphical user interface. These include visisbility of calls made, ended and unanswered, paging, door release, status reports and system health checks.

Worth a look?
I looked at the IX system from a potential user's perpective and I was more than a little impressed.

While Professional Security is product-agnostic and does not endorse any manufacturers, I would certainly encourage you to take a close look at the IX system if you are in the market for an intercom and security system that can offer you a comprehensive solution.

Find out more

You will be able to see the IX system in action at future Security TWENTY 17 events, but if you can't wait you can book a demonstration by contacting Aiphone UK Ltd. You can call them on 02027 507 6250; or visit www.Aiphone.co.uk.

AIPHONE
VIDEO DOOR ENTRY SYSTEMS

COMMUNICATING
901 Main Entrance
West Complex