

CASE STUDY



Overview

As one of Europe's main arterial rail links, the UK's **West Coast Main Line** facilitates nearly 20 million passenger journeys each year throughout the length and breadth of its 401-mile route from **London Euston to Glasgow Central**. Against a backdrop of significant investment in line development over the last 10 years, franchise operator, **Virgin Trains** set about improving the safety and security of its customers with a national CCTV upgrade programme across the 17 stations it operates on the route.

The original requirement was to provide recording profiles at each of the stations based on the category of the station. Larger stations required complex recording profiles with a mix of recording systems and compression methods while smaller stations needed a simpler profile. Further requirements included:

- **Distributed recording system.**
- **Centralised access for monitoring and review.**
- **Local access for transport of evidence.**
- **Variable recording profiles for scene type.**
- **Ease of use.**

Systems Integrator, **Thompson AVC** was selected by Virgin Trains to deliver the project within an ambitious time scale. **Scott Thompson**, MD at **Thompson AVC** explains "we were

given an operating window of 6 months to work with **Virgin Trains** in delivering the installations throughout the various phases of station development"

The Solution

The recording solution installed by **Thompson AVC** is based on **Visimetrics** range of **Digital Evidence Recorders**. With each station's recording requirements based on the category of station a mix of **FASTAR**, **VADER** and **OCTAR** products have been installed throughout the route to meet performance and cost requirements at the individual stations. "With such a comprehensive set of requirements we knew there were very few efficient options available to us" comments Thompson. The recording solution from **Visimetrics** has been tailored to record cameras based on scene activity. Cameras covering cash handling for example are recorded at higher resolution and frame rates than those of the concourse.

"The capabilities of **Visimetrics** products enabled us to design a very efficient solution. We have mixed real-time recording of essential cameras with time-lapse recording of generic cameras all within a very tight footprint of systems keeping costs down.



"**Visimetrics** product mix is extremely efficient in tailoring the needs of recording varied camera scene types" comments Thompson. Overall the solution at each site provides the surveillance recording for Platforms, Escalators, Concourse, Station entrances/exits, Automatic Fare Collection Gates, Ticket Booking offices, subways etc.

"We are delighted with the quality of evidence we are passing on to the police. Our security staff have swiftly embraced **Visimetrics** system and it has now become an essential tool in reducing crime and the fear of crime in and around our stations" reports **Richard Hands**, Virgin Trains Senior Project Manager responsible for the delivery on the project.

The Future

The future of the **West Coast Main Line CCTV system** is to provide centralised access to all stations for the control and monitoring of the systems for alarm handling, live viewing and review of evidence. Individual sites will maintain autonomy for the gathering and distribution of evidence to local police authorities however a national Control Room will ensure full access and control can be achieved centrally, vital in today's climate of attacks on public transport.



DIGITAL CCTV SYSTEMS

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