TELEDYNE FLIR

APPLICATION NOTE
Public Safety

FLIR TICS PROVIDE DUTCH FIREFIGHTING TEAMS WITH RELIABLE IMAGE DURING CRITICAL MISSIONS

The Dutch Fire Department has selected the FLIR K55 thermal imaging camera for its firefighting and rescue operations. Thanks to the FLIR K55's high reliability, excellent thermal image quality and user-friendly operation, Dutch firefighters are now able to assess critical situations much faster and take necessary actions with much more confidence.

In 2021, the IFV (Instituut Fysieke Veiligheid), a Dutch umbrella organization and knowledge center for fire rescue safety, published a new tender for thermal imaging cameras. 11 out of 25 so-called safety regions – Dutch administrative units comprising several fire stations – participated in the tender. The IFV wanted to update the fire teams' equipment with the latest state-of-the-art technology and needed a reliable, sustainable supplier and high-performance TIC.

After a thorough selection process, Teledyne FLIR was chosen together with Hobrand, exclusive Teledyne FLIR partner and Dutch specialist in fire safety equipment, to provide 625 units of FLIR Teledyne's K55 thermal imaging camera over a period of four years.

INDISPENSABLE TOOL

"The FLIR K55 will serve the Dutch firefighting teams exceptionally well and will become indispensable during firefighting and rescue missions," says Martijn van de Peppel, Division Manager at Hobrand. "Thanks to the camera's high image quality and user-friendly operation, firefighters can speed up their risk assessments and critical decision-making."

René Rieken, Project Leader at the IFV and firefighter at the Gelderland-Zuid safety region, has played a pivotal role in the entire tender and selection process. According to him, Dutch fire teams are using TICs for a diversity of critical tasks, including:

- Finding victims in dark and smoke-filled rooms
- Assessing the location of the team and seeing through low-visibility and smoke-filled rooms
- Reading temperatures and finding hotbeds
- Detecting heat build-ups with chemical components in tanks and pipeline networks

FLIR Teledyne outperformed the competition during the testing days. The FLIR K55 TICs were submitted to simulations of real-life situations for which the cameras are typically used.

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THOROUGH SELECTION PROCEDURE

The IFV technology selection procedure was quite rigorous. The organization first organized information rounds with leading firefighting camera providers. Next, the IFV formulated its requirements, based on these information rounds and on quality standards determined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). These requirements were supplemented with additional recommendations for user-friendliness, ease of operation and eco-friendly packaging. The combined requirements formed the basis for the tender that was published in 2021.

"The companies that applied for the tender were also requested to have their equipment tested during two real-life testing days," says René Rieken. "During those two days, we submitted the equipment to simulations of real-life situations for which the cameras are typically used. Across the board, the FLIR TICs stood out as the most qualitative camera solution. The high image quality, smart screen information, and high usability, even when operating the camera with heavy gloves: FLIR outperformed the competition."

The IFV also wanted to know whether the K55's battery life and reliability would be satisfactory. Teledyne FLIR was able to present statistics and other internal data proving that the K55 can guarantee reliable operation in critical situations for hours on end.

TAILORED AND SUSTAINABLE

The IFV not only valued quality and price. The organization was also looking for a sustainable solution, more specifically one that generated a minimum of waste. Usually, developing the package of a combined offer, including the FLIR K55, a truck charger, extra batteries and accessories, entails using multiple boxes and packing material. To avoid this, Teledyne FLIR worked out a tailored solution, to fit all delivered materials into a single box.

In a joint coordinated effort by Hobrand and the FLIR sales, quality and product management teams, Teledyne FLIR succeeded in limiting the amount of waste to a minimum.

ONGOING PARTNERSHIP

With the selection of Teledyne FLIR, the IFV was also sure that the 11 safety regions would not be left to their own devices. With Hobrand as its partner, FLIR could also guarantee continuous technical support and training for the Dutch firefighting teams. Among other things, Hobrand's services include fast problem diagnosis, continuous software updates, swap units in case of repair, and train the trainer sessions for the different regions.

"We're happy to support Teledyne FLIR with our services," says Martijn van de Peppel. "Teledyne FLIR is by far the most reliable option for firefighting teams, and the company continuously innovates and updates its camera portfolio to provide increasingly higher performance. In that sense, the Dutch firefighters will have the best technical support during their missions for many years to come."

THE FUTURE IS THERMAL

TICs used to be bulky and expensive, but thanks to technological innovations from companies like Teledyne FLIR, they have become more accessible and reliable for more firefighting teams.

"We believe that thermal imaging cameras really make a difference during our operations," says René Rieken. "Today, one TIC per firefighting truck is the standard, but in the future, we will probably have two or more cameras per team or per truck, so critical decisions can be made faster on a group level."

For more information about Teledyne FLIR traffic solutions or about this application please visit : www.flir.com/fire

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