But for certain transportation entities such as highways, airports, tunnels, bridges, and ports, challenging terrains and environmental conditions can limit the usefulness of video surveillance cameras, and these drawback must be taken into consideration. Security personnel responsible for monitoring what's happening in hard to see areas – such as boats under a bridge, fire or smoke in a tunnel, or fog-prone waterways where vessels are trying to securely approach a port, for example - are reaping the benefits of thermal imaging cameras. That's because thermal cameras can provide detection and pivotal information regarding a scene whereas a standard visible camera cannot.

Plant managers within the transportation industry are becoming increasingly more aware of the benefits of thermal imaging. Thermography is becoming much more widely adopted because the operational advantages gleaned from the use of technology is becoming much more widely recognized across the board.

By definition, thermal imaging is non-contact technology which measures infrared wavelengths emitted from objects and converts the temperature information into an image - images that are critically important to safety and security in transportation applications. Thermal cameras can see what the human eye cannot - invisible heat radiation - regardless of lighting conditions - and provide high quality images which are so instrumental in protecting transportation hubs, particularly at night. And unlike standard video surveillance cameras, thermal cameras also have the ability to pass through visual barriers, such as trees and foliage, and provide footage that shows clearly what is actually taking place.

Reducing false alarms is always top of mind for security teams and thermal cameras actually help a lot in that quest, as well. High contrast thermal imagery helps reduce the number of false alarms because their motion detection alarms are only triggered by moving heat sources and not by harmless distractions such as moving debris or tree branches. Thermal cameras are being widely adopted and proving to be extremely effective in providing asset protection to the Transportation sector.

## AUTHOR: Alex Reichard, Sr. Account Manager, NextGen Security, LLC

Headquartered near Philadelphia, PA, with a major operation in Houston, TX, and several regional offices throughout the country, NextGen Security, LLC is an integrated physical and electronic security provider specializing in solutions for regulated entities and facilities in key vertical markets