



# COM<sup>TM</sup> SUR

the missing piece of CCTV

COM-SUR<sup>TM</sup> EMPOWERS PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE  
OPTIMAL OUTCOMES FROM SURVEILLANCE VIDEO,  
LEADING TO A SAFER WORLD.



UTILITY VALUE OF  
COM-SUR™ DURING  
ELECTIONS

WELCOME



OVERVIEW

CCTV surveillance and videography is common during elections world over, but footage is often only reviewed reactively. Our company realized this problem early-on and has developed the world's only CCTV video footage auditing software that encourages daily auditing of CCTV footage, filling the gap for a complete "workflow". The software works with existing cameras and VMS, regardless of type/brand, and provides a standardized approach for intelligent incident reporting. Our software also offers exceptional investigative capabilities.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING ELECTIONS

1. Electoral issues:

Based on the structural and circumstantial aspects of the election process, several types of issues are likely to arise. These include violence, booth capturing, intimidation of voters, vote buying, electoral roll tampering, and so on.

2. Terrorism and other issues:

Elections constantly face threats of terrorism, shootouts, and other issues such as vandalism, and so on. Perpetrators often conduct pre-operational surveillance of the target area, making it important to detect suspicious activity during this phase to prevent an incident.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The pandemic severely impacted the schedule of elections worldwide. Several countries had to postpone their national and subnational elections. Guidelines were issued to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but outbreaks still occurred.

### USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE DURING ELECTIONS

During elections, video surveillance at polling centres is deployed at the following areas:

- Entrances and exits (gates)
- Parking lots
- Polling booths
- Strong rooms

Further, in order to record important events and potential irregularities (if any) during the election process, the respective electoral authority makes use of videography. Generally, this entails a videographer with a camera recording the activities at polling centres, counting centres, and other areas where incidents of voter intimidation or violence are likely to occur. In some cases, drones are also used. The recorded footage is then reviewed and analysed by the concerned stakeholders of the electoral authority.

### LIVE MONITORING – CHALLENGES

During elections, several countries set up a dedicated control room with operators, set up for live monitoring of CCTV and other cameras such as drones. However, live monitoring comes with its own set of challenges of video blindness, poor attention span, boredom, operator bias, false alerts, and so on.

Moreover, these cameras continuously capture and record humungous amounts of video data. It therefore becomes a daunting task for the operators to review and analyse this data whenever the need arises. Thus, it may be noted that benefits from video surveillance

systems can accrue only when they are used optimally, suggestions for which are enumerated further on, in this document.

### AUTOMATED SOFTWARE – WHY THEY WILL NOT WORK IN ISOLATION

In the wake of the Christchurch shooting incident, several high-profile places of worship considered deploying gun detection technology. However, there are concerns about its efficacy, since it may not be able to detect all types of weapons, or the perpetrator could still create damage before being detected. Similarly, automated systems like video analytics, AI/ML can only detect what they have been programmed for. What about the rest? Again, these technologies are prone to triggering huge amounts of false alarms. Also, since the permutation combinations of exceptions can be vast and varied, it becomes almost impossible to automate every kind of exception. Facial recognition technology also raises ethical and privacy concerns, and has been found to produce inaccurate results, especially for certain ethnic groups. Therefore, experts suggest that while automated technologies will continue to grow, human intervention and intelligence will still be necessary to verify alerts and ensure their efficacy.

### “CCTV IS NOT ENOUGH – WE MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU”

While it is not being suggested that optimal usage of video surveillance can cure all issues, several issues of the following kind can be addressed by doing just a little 'more' with respect to making the optimal use of video surveillance systems:

- Influencing/Intimidation of voters
- Incitement at the polling booth
- Movements and activities of candidates with a criminal record
- Suspicious behaviour and/or movement
- Violation of norms during campaign related public rallies /processions/events
- Issues during vote counting
- Poll code violations
- Violation of rules and regulations by candidates for incurring the expenditure as allowed to them
- Cameras/recorder malfunctions

So, what is the 'more' that needs to be done?

#### 1) AUDIT CCTV VIDEO FOOTAGE DAILY AS A STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

'Auditing' means 'seeing' what the cameras 'saw'. Auditing of CCTV footage should be done daily (continuous investigation) to identify potential issues and threats. Auditing is a dedicated and systematic process that helps address challenges related to live monitoring and alert-based systems. Auditing helps in evaluating analyzing incidents to improve existing policies, procedures, and processes. Concerned personnel should be trained to become CCTV video footage auditors, and the audit teams should be rotated to avoid complacency/collusion. Daily auditing of CCTV footage can also help in adhering to the principles of Kaizen and TQM for

business improvement.

#### 2) DOCUMENT AUDIT FINDINGS/INCIDENTS

Audit findings/incidents should be documented in a standardized template to find the root cause to prevent future recurrences. Historical data of such findings/incidents can reveal patterns that can help take better informed corrective and preventive action. If all incidents are reported in a standardized template, relevant authorities can derive business intelligence from the data and take action for the collective benefit of all concerned stakeholders of the electoral process.

#### 3) ENSURE DISASTER RECOVERY OF CCTV VIDEO FOOTAGE – LIKE A 'BLACKBOX'.

CCTV video footage must be stored at multiple locations in order to ensure that even if the recorder is stolen, destroyed or tampered with the data is never lost. Further, any backed-up data must easily be searchable and retrievable; else, it is going to be a nightmare finding the relevant video.

#### 4) DISPLAY DYNAMIC INFORMATION AT RELEVANT PLACES

Document and display details of information that is dynamic in nature in relevant areas. For example:

1. List of election officials on duty.
2. List of authorized security personnel deployed at the polling centre.
3. List of habitual offenders/suspects likely to visit the polling centre (a 'Watch out' list).

5) USE A POWERFUL NEW SIGNAGE

**"WE CHECK CCTV VIDEO FOOTAGE EVERYDAY".**

One size, one color, one powerful message.  
Across the nation.

DE-CENTRALIZED SURVEILLANCE +  
CENTRALIZED SURVEILLANCE = OPTIMAL  
RESULTS

Organizations with multiple locations struggle with centralized video surveillance due to infrastructure cost, internet bandwidth, and operator limitations. De-centralized surveillance offers higher accountability at each location and better situational awareness, leading to more chances of discovering exceptions.

THE SOLUTION - 'COM-SUR' – THE WORLD'S  
ONLY CCTV VIDEO FOOTAGE AUDITING, SMART  
BACKUP, AND STANDARDIZED INTELLIGENT  
INCIDENT REPORTING SOFTWARE – THE  
MISSING PIECE OF CCTV

COM-SUR is a CCTV video footage auditing, smart backup, and standardized intelligent incident reporting software that serves as a complete workflow and force multiplier. It helps audit 24 hours of footage in minutes, reduces data size, creates standardized intelligent reports, and delivers business intelligence. COM-SUR helps unlock hidden information in CCTV footage and enables people to gain actionable intelligence, improve homeland security, prevent crime and losses, identify and mitigate threats and hazards, and improve operational efficiency. It empowers people to gain new jobs as CCTV video footage auditors and start new businesses of auditing video footage. Like MS Office, COM-SUR is an enabler that makes it easy to work with CCTV cameras in

a standardized way, leading to better decision-making. It also offers exceptional investigative capabilities.

CONCLUSION

"You see, but you do not observe" is a quote by Sherlock Holmes in A Scandal in Bohemia (1891, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle). COM-SUR makes 'observation' far effortless and effectual leading to superior results.

"Cameras don't lie" - but how will you know unless you 'see' what the cameras 'saw'?  
Audit CCTV - why suffer!

Get award-winning COM-SUR now. Don't wait for things to go wrong!