



APPLICATION STORY



Monitoring traffic at the Rion-Antirion Bridge, day and night

The Rion-Antirion Bridge in Greece is the world's longest cable-stayed bridge with a suspended deck. Stretching over 2,252m (2,883m including the access viaduct), The Rion-Antirion viaduct limits the crossing time over the Gulf of Corinth to around five minutes. To ensure safety on the bridge and make quick interventions possible in case an accident happens, the bridge makes use of smart Automatic Incident Detection technology and thermal imaging cameras from FLIR Systems.

When 10,000 vehicles cross the Gulf of Corinth on a daily basis, you can safely say that the Rion-Antirion Bridge is an important thoroughfare for the region. The Rion-Antirion Bridge features four pylons, each with a span of 560m. Located in the western end of the Gulf of Corinth in Greece, the Rion-Antirion Bridge links the Peloponnese (southern Greece) to the Greek mainland.

Automatic Incident Detection (AID)

The bridge was completed in 2004 and from the beginning, traffic safety was a priority for GEYFRA S.A., the bridge concessionary. That's why some necessary technology investments were made. In 2005, Rion-Antirion Bridge concessionary called upon FLIR Intelligent Transportation Systems for a comprehensive

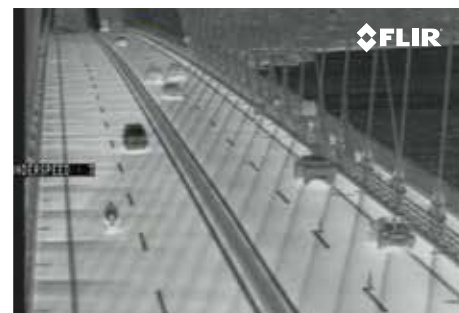
incident detection system. In 2006, the installation of 30 VIP-T multi-functional Video Image Processing modules for traffic control was completed. These boards analyze the video streams of traffic cameras and integrate Automatic Incident Detection (AID), data collection, recording of pre and post incident image sequences and streaming video in one board. VIP modules from FLIR Systems have been installed for road and tunnel projects all over the world.

An AID system supports the operator in detecting every abnormal situation in traffic. It automatically treats the following events as alarms:

- Stopped vehicles
- Pedestrians



Stopped vehicle detection



Underspeed detection



- Traffic congestion
- Stop and go traffic
- Slow moving vehicle
- Inverse direction (counter flow)
- Fallen objects

Thermal imaging cameras

GEYFRA Litourgia S.A. is the company that operates the Rion Antirion Bridge. The company is responsible for toll management, traffic management and routine maintenance of the Rion Antirion Bridge. In 2006, GEYFRA Litourgia S.A. decided to combine video analytics from FLIR Intelligent Transportation Systems, FLIR's dedicated division for the ITS market, with traditional CCTV, visible light cameras. "The difficulty with this set-up was that a lot of false alarms were generated," comments Bernard Galtier, General Manager & Managing Director, at GEYFRA Litourgia S.A. "This was due to the bad weather conditions during the winter and to the typical structure of the bridge, with poles and suspension construction. During sunset and sunrise, the poles cast shadows on the road deck, and this was a specific situation that was very hard to handle with visible light cameras."

While attempts to improve and fine-tune the video detection algorithms also yielded good results, another approach turned out to be more effective. End of 2012, Bernard Galtier decided to experiment with thermal imaging cameras. Thermal imaging cameras, also called



Inverse direction detection



Pedestrian detection

infrared cameras, detect the heat given off by an object or person.

"In 2012, thermal imaging cameras had become much cheaper than 10 years before," comments Mario Pinto, Area Manager at FLIR Systems. "What's more, FLIR Systems was already able to offer traffic detection video analytics that is perfectly adapted to thermal imaging cameras. The use of thermal cameras dramatically reduced the number of false alarms and thus improved the performance of the overall AID system." That's why in 2013, GEYFRA Litourgia S.A. and concessionary GEYFRA S.A., in co-operation with FLIR Intelligent Transportation Systems, upgraded the bridge's camera technology with thermal imaging units.

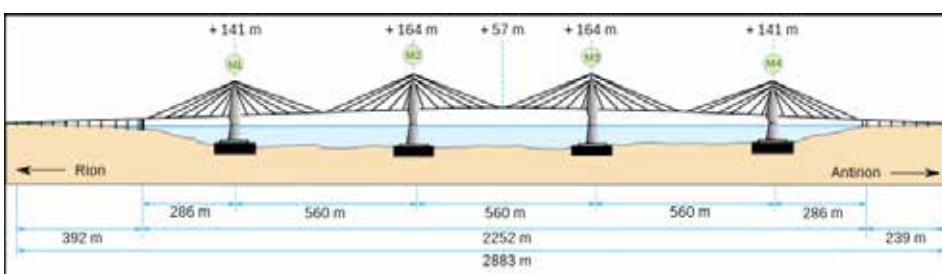
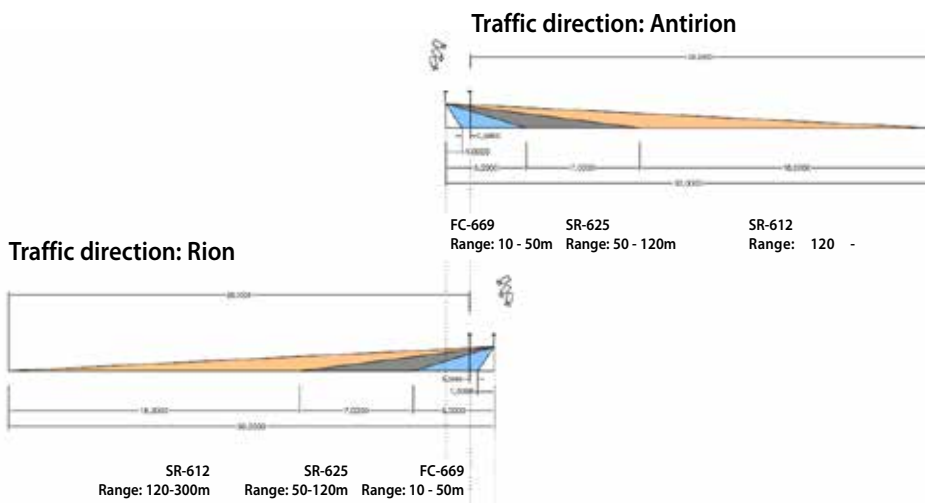
The big advantage of thermal imaging cameras for traffic detection applications is that, unlike visible light video cameras, thermal imaging cameras are not plagued by sun glare, shadows

or wet streets – all of which can confuse the video detection and cause false calls and missed calls. And, obviously, FLIR's thermal imaging cameras give the Rion-Antirion Bridge operator an uninterrupted 24-hour view of all motorized vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians, day and night, regardless of the amount of light available.

Traffic detection set-up

30 traffic cameras from FLIR Systems were installed on the suspension construction of the Rion-Antirion Bridge. In order to cover the entire road deck, a combination of FLIR FC-T Series and SR-Series cameras were installed on a 15m height. Each bridge pole has six cameras, with three cameras for each direction. The pylons' intermediate distance is 560m, which means that each group of three cameras is monitoring a distance of 280m. The FC-Series cameras are used to monitor a range of 50m from the pylon, while the SR-Series cameras are used to cover the distance between 50m and 300m from the pylon. Additionally, 3 cameras on each side of the bridge cover the two access viaducts as well as the entry and exit areas.

The new AID system including thermal imaging cameras significantly improved the detection performance. Shadows cast by the bridge structure were no longer a problem and the system has already proven to be reliable in various tough weather conditions.



For more information about thermal imaging cameras or about this application, please contact:

FLIR Intelligent Transportation Systems
 Luxemburgstraat 2
 2321 Meer Belgium
 Tel. : +32 (0) 3665 5100
 Fax : +32 (0) 3303 5624
 e-mail: flir@flir.com

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