

Moving beyond alphanumeric for vehicle identification

When you speak with camera experts in the high-end vision world, they all tend to agree on one thing: the ITS sector is one of the most challenging and demanding markets around. Selling into such a complex sector takes a great deal of dedication, technical expertise and commitment.

Tattile has specialized in the development and manufacture of ALPR cameras for ITS since 1988, to the extent that it is now among the most established players in the marketplace. Not wanting to rest on any laurels, the company recently announced the launch of its new Vega Color family, designed to detect the color of the license plates themselves.

The development process for Vega presented a new challenge for Tattile – to provide a high-tech solution able to fulfill the ITS demands emanating from specific areas around the globe, particularly in the sophisticated markets of the Arab world, where users are requesting not only the identification of the alphanumeric string that makes up a license plate but also the identification of its color.

Some countries permit more than one vehicle to share the same license plate number or letter combination, so in such instances quite often the only difference between the plates is their background color.

The capability to read the plate data and identify the color is thus paramount in enabling the end user to have immediate access to a vehicle's unique identification information.

Responding to the challenge, Tattile devised an all-in-one solution without the need for an external white-light illuminator. The Vega camera's color sensor



Tattile's new Vega family for tolling, traffic monitoring, vehicle tracking, enforcement and more

Need to know?

A new camera range to cater to the increasingly complex demands of traffic surveillance

- Vega HD Color has a 2,560 x 2,048 CMOS sensor (75fps); the Vega Color a 1,920 x 1080 CMOS sensor (25fps)
- Image capture and processing triggered by Ethernet command or digital signal
- Configuration and monitoring through TCP/IP; installation and configuration by web server on board
- Waterproof IP66 housing with bracket included

has been integrated with a white light LED illuminator (saving installation, energy and maintenance costs), which integrates built-in software capable of automatically adjusting its intensity according to the external light conditions. At the same time, this ensures

high-quality images that are focused on plate number and color identification. The system can even identify color at night or in dark conditions.

In line with Tattile's overall philosophy, Vega Color is an all-in-one system featuring embedded technology – that means no extra PCs, software licenses, etc. are required to operate the camera. The solution also boasts onboard OCR, meaning that images are processed and converted directly in the camera. It's a totally plug-and-play solution so installation is simple and inexpensive. And being a standalone system, the camera can operate even without a previously set-up data connection and saves the events on its onboard micro SD. Finally, the onboard web server enables an easy and immediate camera setup and software update, which reduces maintenance costs considerably.

Part of the family

Tattile's new family includes the Vega Color and the Vega HD Color cameras. The former is a perfect fit for all of the most common urban applications,

such as vehicle tracking up to 140km/h (87mph), parking and access control. The Vega HD Color, on the other hand, has been developed for free-flow and high-speed tolling applications, for highway tracking and for all those applications where high-speed vehicle detection and plate recognition is a real challenge.

As a result of its 5MP sensor (working at 75fps), the Vega Color is able to detect vehicles up to 250km/h (155mph) without any external trigger due to the fact that sophisticated blob motion software has been deployed inside the camera, which an auto-trigger commands.

Vega Color covers more than one lane so it can perform detection and plate reading of cars traveling in between two lanes, avoiding any lack of detection. ○

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