The Sphinx keeps looking after the pyramids

Words by Robert Kennedy, images by Asad Asla

Since ancient times, the Sphinx has watched over the pyramids in Giza. Nowadays however, Dallmeier-Electronic has implemented a total CCTV solution that stands watch over the three most impressive ancient pyramids in the world. This impressive implementation consists of a set of 200 outdoor and indoor cameras, covering an area of over 12 km².
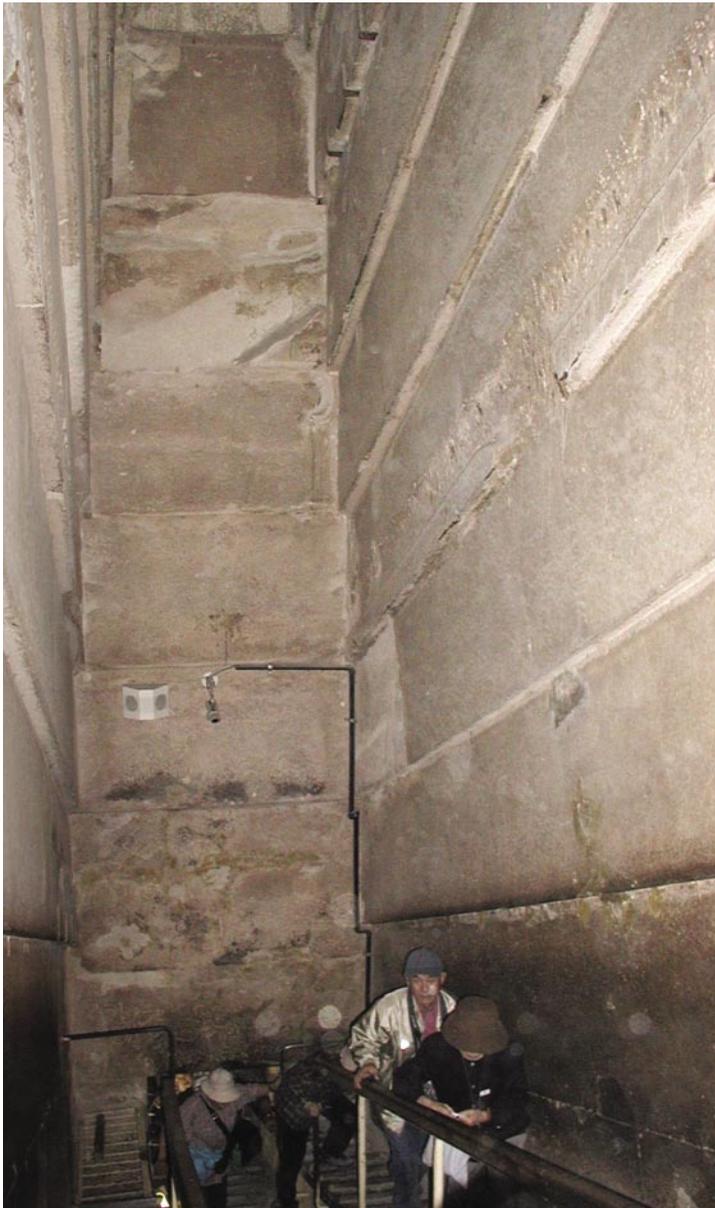
Dallmeier-Electronic has successfully installed a system that can monitor visitors, protect against terrorist acts, and monitor and spot archaeological groups working without authorisation. Thus the wards can quickly detect any intruders, react in a minimal time in case of alarm, and be informed of any danger immediately.

The solution Dallmeier-Electronic implemented was specifically tailored to the task.. Eighteen 12-channel DVR units are used for the 200 cameras on site. Scalability of the system is ensured since this is upgradeable to 24-channel units. Each DVR is equipped with 1 terabyte of memory, enabling a 30 day storage period. Furthermore, each DVR is connected to the one network, significantly reducing costs and complexity. 5 control stations are used, each with 3 large monitors; 1 monitor for alarms, 1 monitor for the graphical interface, and 1 monitor for the PView software. PGuard software was implemented for the processing and management of alarms, either locally or remotely. Each control station is manned with only one guard, drastically reducing the high cost of man power to survey such a large area.

The decisive points for implementing Dallmeier-Electronic's system were the system's flexibility, impressive high image quality, and possibility to integrate specific solutions in the field of image processing (i.e. head counts, static object detection, camera sabotage detection, etc).

Mr Sayek A. Maksourd, the project manager from 4S-Sphinx in Cairo, stated: "Given the local and international importance of this project, we made extensive research about all DVR suppliers in the world. The most important criterias were the high security and the quality of recorded images. Therefore we chose Dallmeier, who gave us total satisfaction with the technical training and after-sales service."

Mr. Asad Asla, Sales Manager for the Middle East Region with Dallmeier, said "I cannot describe the nice and honourable feeling to realize such a project if we consider the importance and the celebrity of this historical site. Our technology secures the pyramids themselves and gives the visitors on site a feeling of security while they look on and admire such a historical site with more than 3000 years history. The ancient Egyptians built the sphinx in order to protect the pyramids. Today, 4S-Sphinx looks after them with Dallmeier modern technology. It was a great honour to win the trust from the Egyptian authorities. I would like to thank all who gave us the chance to be involved, and feel honoured to be in this prestigious project!"

Without a doubt, Dallmeier-Electronic's implemented solution has again demonstrated its extensive experience in the CCTV monitoring field, and as a market leader in digital video systems. From implementation to technical training and after sales service, Dallmeier-Electronics solutions are unmatched in security, flexibility and performance. [•]

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