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The Iowa Department of Transportation's Monitoring System to be Integrated Into National CARS Program

Watertown, MA – July 9, 2004 – The Iowa Department of Transportation is expanding its network of traffic monitoring cameras in Des Moines with 40 new state-of-the-art cameras. The video system is being linked to a new, ten-state regional monitoring system called CARS (Condition Acquisition and Reporting System). The cameras and monitoring system, including integration into CARS, are being provided by Industrial Video and Control Co. (IVC), which provides advanced video monitoring systems, together with Transcore, a leading provider of Intelligent Transportation Systems.

In a setup that is in some ways, similar to one IVC recently set up for the Wisconsin DOT, this system incorporates multiple video relay servers for redundancy, to prevent the single-point failure that is problematic to older systems. In addition to the multiple servers, the Iowa IVC system uses Motorola Canopy radios to connect the 40 pan tilt zoom cameras to a fiber optic backbone. The whole system incorporates TCP/IP protocol, which gives flexibility and allows future expansion and modifications as needed.

The Des Moines video system is one of the first to be incorporated into CARS, a large inter-agency network for disseminating and viewing information. CARS is now mainly used for traffic and road issues, but it is becoming valuable in other areas as well, including weather, travel, and most notably, Homeland Security. CARS operates as an information hub to which various agencies can contribute information. For example, four traffic agencies in different districts can input current information from their respective district, and an inclusive, large-scale map of the data would then be available on CARS. Through this system, authorized agencies can access large amounts of information aggregated from the many organizations involved, using only a web-connected computer.

IVC has seamlessly integrated its camera and server technology into CARS, which will surely play a growing role in both traffic monitoring and national security. Norman Fast of IVC remarked, "IVC's integration with CARS, via the Iowa DOT, shows our system's flexibly in working with an XML interface. CARS technology could become a focus in Homeland Security, and our cameras will continue to collect information for the network. Accordingly, we are now seeing other states, such as Vermont, asking us for camera systems that are integrated into CARS."

Based in Watertown, Massachusetts, IVC is a manufacturer/integrator of IP-based video systems and a developer of advanced software for managing networks of video cameras. Their video systems are used in a broad variety of applications by companies of all sizes. IVC offers a range of IP cameras including pan-tilt zoom, fixed, remote zoom and varifocal (manual zoom) cameras.

For further information, please contact:
Gary George, Director of Marketing, IVC
Phone: 617 926 7802, E-mail: ggeorge@ivcco.com