

Jane's

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Heavy duty

Does riot equipment need to be more flexible?

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Biometrics on the move

LAPD test-fires ballistic forensics system

Los Angeles crime lab puts tool through validation study to test capacity, reliability and accuracy

THE Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) crime lab is testing a new forensic ballistics system as part of a National Institute of Justice (NIJ) project.

ALIAS is a portable forensic ballistics tool that is set up in a crime laboratory. By manipulating a digital clone of a cartridge case or expended bullet, a firearms examiner can use the system to perform an in-depth automated analysis without any chance of contaminating the evidence, the developers claim.

The LAPD crime lab is putting the system through a validation study to test its capacity, reliability and accuracy in a crime laboratory setting. The lab is using cartridge cases fired from 630 different 9 mm Beretta semi-automatic pistols.

Doreen Hudson, the LAPD crime lab's assistant lab director told



TEST SITE: The ALIAS system creates a digital clone of a fired bullet

Police Product Review: 'The 9 mm is the most commonly encountered firearm in the metropolitan crime labs and Beretta has a pretty big chunk of that market.'

'We are putting the known test-fires into ALIAS from the 630 firearms

we test-fired for this purpose. Once they are in the system, we will create test-fires from 20 of those same firearms and five others (not in the database) using four different types of ammunition. This creates 100 unknown samples that will be

submitted to the ALIAS operator(s) as blind unknowns for them to input and search for a match or no match (in the case of the five firearms that have not been test-fired and put in already). This should be a rigorous test of the system.'

The lab started using the system, which was developed by Pyramidal Technologies, in May and expects to complete the tests in December.

Ms Hudson said she had been impressed by the system so far. She said: 'It is a remarkably flexible tool for the field of forensic firearm identification.'

According to Ms Hudson, the results of the validation study will be presented and published in the law enforcement community. That information will be useful to other agencies and laboratories considering ALIAS as a gun crime system.

Shopping hub aims to save forces cash

THE UK's National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has formed a partnership with ProcServe, a company that provides electronic procurement products, to set up a procurement process that enables police forces in England and Wales to buy specified goods and services online.

The NPIA is rolling out the new National Police Procurement Hub (NPPH) across all 43 forces in England and Wales. Lincolnshire Police went live with the system in August and the agency expects all forces to be using the hub by June 2012.

The hub gives the police service the ability to select, purchase and pay for a range of approved goods and services online from 500 suppliers, and is set to save the police service £30 million over six years, according to the NPIA. It will enable Lincolnshire Police to buy approved items such as IT, body armour, vehicles and a range of other goods and services, at the touch of a button.



BUYING POWER: The NPIA's new procurement hub will lower costs

ProcServe has developed a cloud-based system, one in which applications and digital content is stored online rather than on a customer's hard drive, for businesses that wish to buy goods and services from their suppliers electronically.

A potential barrier to electronic procurement for public sector organisations has been that buyers

and suppliers use a range of back-office systems that receive and process data in different formats.

By connecting to the hub, buyers and suppliers automatically belong to the ProcServe trading network, which allows them to join and share procurement information with similar organisations. ProcServe also provides some key marketplaces across the UK public sector including OPEN, xchangewales eTrading, xchangewales eTrading for Schools, Procurement for Housing eMarketplace and the NPPH.

The initiative is supported by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). David Horne, the project's senior responsible officer and a former chair of ACPO's procurement portfolio, says it will help forces reduce costs by buying together, provide them with easy access to best-value contracts and allow small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and other suppliers to work more efficiently with the service.

Scheme to help Dallas detect a nuclear threat

DALLAS Police Department is to participate in a regional radiological nuclear detection programme that will help law enforcement officials protect against any nuclear or radiological attacks.

A \$831,200 (£524,950) grant from the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office of the United States Department of Homeland Security, will help the department to buy equipment that will map low-level sources of radiation across the city.

Brian Harvey, deputy chief of police in Dallas, said: 'It is a preventative program that involves law enforcement mapping low-level sources. So as law enforcement goes about its normal business and we can build these maps, then, over time, we can look for anomalies.'