Maritime Early Warning System (MEWS)

The most important thing we build is trust
Every year, hundreds of seagoing vessels of all kinds are targeted by pirates aiming to hold crew and cargo to ransom. The Cobham Maritime Early Warning System (MEWS) aims to spot potential threats as quickly as possible, to enable preventative action to be taken.

MEWS provides multiple layers of surveillance, and provides the operator with alerts of waterborne threats and intruders. It provides a central operator with the ability to detect, identify and alert local security to a given threat.

MEWS is a complete monitoring and surveillance system in a box, and is disguised within a modified cargo container and can be deployed swiftly and easily. The state-of-the-art technology it holds can be tailored to meet client requirements.

The Cobham MEWS is loaded onto a ship and can be quickly and easily deployed. A ruggedised laptop provides the monitoring and control station. This can be located remotely in a convenient location, for example the bridge.

MEWS is comprised of products drawn from proven, advanced technologies and components. The modular approach makes it available for commercial budgets, enabling affordable customised solutions to be tailored to individual customer performance needs.

### Successful hijacks between January 2009 and September 2011

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With a Cobham Maritime Early Warning System (MEWS), the need for onboard security is reduced and personnel safety is increased. By helping to prevent loss of cargo or ships to pirates or criminals, installing MEWS may help to reduce insurance premiums.

A choice of dual band cameras are available, with up to 5 used to provide 360° coverage. Uncooled thermal cameras offer a recognition range of around 2km, while long range colour cameras can identify threats beyond 2km distance, protecting ships both day and night.

MEWS radar oversees the Detection and Monitoring Zone, providing early warning of potential threats, so that the ship’s master has time to understand the situation and make decisions on how best to protect high value assets.

Images collected by cameras can be both assessed onboard and also transmitted via satellite to a nearby base or military unit for evaluation or action.

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Example deployment

The MEWS Control Station offers a single display for sensor, camera and AIS data, seamlessly integrating all inbound data feeds. A joystick and touchscreen interface make the system simple to operate, with just three hours’ training needed.

MEWS cameras monitor the Alert and Identify Zone, assisting with accurate visual identification of any immediate threat. Cameras are automatically pointed to targets spotted on radar, with images continuously recorded to provide an audit trail.

Specialist maritime radar with a maximum detection range of 35km for larger vessels, and better performance in clutter environments through Doppler cancellation. Up to 3 radars offer 360° coverage, with tracking positions relayed to camera controllers.
Cobham Maritime Early Warning System (MEWS)

- Complete monitoring and surveillance system in a box
- Disguised cargo container for easy deployment
- State of the art, proven technology
- Multiple layers of surveillance, alerting to waterborne threats
- Includes specialist maritime radars, dual band cameras and comprehensive control station
- 360° surveillance
- Visual recognition/identification at ranges exceeding 2km.

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