

SMILE, YOU ARE ON CAMERA

When Singapore sleeps, teams from O'Connor's security division arrive at MRT stations to install the latest in security surveillance systems. Like proverbial elves, they work in the dead of the night, between 1.30am and 3.30am, when the trains have stopped running. They do the wiring and installation and test cameras and recorders. They work swiftly and steadily and are out of the stations before the first trains start operations again. By the time this two-year project is completed, Singapore's MRT stations will have one of the most sophisticated security surveillance systems in the world.

The digital closed circuit TV (CCTV) system project covers all stations and depots. Work is being carried out in three phases.

When complete, Big Brother will undoubtedly have eyes everywhere in the MRT network. One immeasurable advantage of a digital system is that it affords almost unlimited recording and dispenses with the use of tons of unwieldy recording equipment and tapes, which is the bugbear of the current system.

Steven Yeow, General Manager of O'Connor's Security and Surveillance Division, adds that with the onset and proliferation of terrorism, the surveillance business has been growing. With present-day technology being state-of-the-art, digital cameras are getting smaller and can be discreetly mounted anywhere. Wireless transmission further helps to bring the pictures literally, "into the living room".