



# Facing the threat



Recent events, both in the UK and worldwide, have made the security of high-profile and public buildings a priority for all those involved in building design and management. In the UK this has been underpinned by a growing number of government directives.

This climate has meant that those companies already at the forefront of building security have been best placed to meet the new security requirements.

ATG Access has been a market leader in the design and manufacture of security bollards for many years. Its experience has also meant that it has become a sort-of consultant, advising local authorities and others on a range of building security issues. And it has the products to deliver.

Perhaps the company's most high profile product and most relevant in the current climate is the industry-benchmark SP1000 automatic rising bollard, which is designed to meet the toughest standards anywhere in the world.

Robert Ball, operational director at ATG Access, has no doubts about its effectiveness.

"Much of the strength of the product is derived from the portion of the product you can't see because it's underground. The energy from an impact goes into the bollard and into the foundations, which are crucial to its performance."

The use of such bollards is likely to become increasingly common. In the US there has been some public disquiet about the over-protection of public buildings with steel gates and barriers. If it is a

public building, so the argument goes, it needs to be accessible to the public.

Gavin Hepburn at ATG Access said, "We were the first company to arrest a 7.5 tonne truck at 30 mph and then at 50 mph with a single bollard."

There are a large number of considerations and tests to perform to be able to design effective security around important buildings, Hepburn says: "In some cities there are a lot of potential targets. You could take a view to protect each individual building and install a 'ring of steel' using bollards. However, if you can protect a wider area and control the traffic you can mitigate the velocity of a vehicle in the area, which is crucial to protecting the building."

The advantage of bollards is that their position can be modified so they can fit in with existing services. Other products such as barriers or gates require a consistent depth to cross the highway.

"We have recently completed a job where there was 132 KV cable running through the foundations and we were able to design a solution so that cable is still able to provide power to half of the city," explains Ball.

The bollards can be altered to fit the requirements of the job. The way the bollard is deployed is an operational issue. A bollard that is going to be up 99.9 per cent of the time will usually have a slow deployment, say ten seconds, however, this can be altered to provide a bollard capable of being fully deployed in a little over a second.

Potential target buildings

generally exist as part of a cityscape and the protection for them needs to compliment their environment; again, bollards perform a more discreet yet highly effective role.

"When you consider the alternatives such as gates and barriers, they send a completely different signal in a sensitive city centre where you need to be able to maintain pedestrian access, large gates and barriers highlight the building and could draw unwelcome attention," says Ball. "Bollards are the preferred option as they can be subtle. They are seen as an acceptable part of the cityscape and we can provide bollards with aesthetic covers to blend-in with their surrounding architecture and street furniture."

The bollards provide the security, but the integrity of the bollards operating mechanisms are themselves, 'virtually invulnerable'. The control systems are encased in concrete and enter the bollard way beneath the ground. The overall control of the bollard is remote.

"We build concentric defence into our security systems. This means that there isn't just one line of defence, so buildings are less

vulnerable," says Ball.

There is currently a surge of interest in the anti-terrorist bollards from all over the world. Hepburn says, "There is equal or more interest potential from overseas than from the UK at the moment. In the eastern side of the US for example there is a growing campaign in cities like Washington and New York against intrusive security measures that constitute eyesores. Bollards are an answer because they are both effective and acceptable."

To ensure the continual development and understanding of its products ATG Access conducts ongoing research into both the design and, just as importantly, the use of its bollards.

ATG Access provides a complete service including consultation, manufacture and installation of its telescopic and static bollard systems and continues to be a global market leader in its field... One of the few companies with the products that can stop a seven and a half tonne truck.

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