

Visonic's RealAlarm™ Earns the Nod of Industry Expert Ken Kirschenbaum, Esq.

Bloomfield, CT – November, 2011 – Visonic Ltd., a leading developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge home security and safety systems and components, recently released its RealAlarm™ visual verification solution. RealAlarm enables central monitoring stations to accurately assess the situation inside the premises in the event of an alarm and immediately establish whether it is a real emergency or a false alarm. The system is capable of transmitting audio clips along with the video clips.

Mark Ingram, President of Visonic, Inc., in an effort to share information with installing dealers and integrators, recently asked Ken Kirschenbaum, Esq., to comment on the current legal statutes on privacy surrounding video and audio transmissions when an alarm condition is triggered. Mr. Kirschenbaum is a recognized legal expert in burglar and fire alarm law. His contracts for alarm and security industry for burglar, fire, CCTV, access control, monitoring, central station, service alarm contracts are in use throughout the United States and in Canada.

Kirschenbaum noted that it's a bit difficult to look for a statutory blessing because the statutes have not kept up with technology. He believes the issue will come down to expectation of privacy and how data is used, even if some video or audio statute is, in fact, violated. "The new Visonic RealAlarm product is designed to transmit once an alarm condition is triggered," he said. "There are only two options in that situation. One, it's a 'false' alarm because there is no illegal activity; maybe the subscriber is home and sets off a motion detector in the middle of the night. Two, it is an illegal entry, and cameras and audio pick up intruders during a break-in. In each scenario, the central station receives a signal, video and audio, if the system is set up to transmit both."

"Intruders have no expectation [only hopes] of privacy," he adds. "The data, video or audio will be used by the trained central station operator to verify a real alarm condition. This form of verification is perhaps the best technology presently has to offer. It should satisfy even the most stringent ECV [electronic call verification] standards, even though ECV regulations may call for one, two or more telephone calls to the premises for verification. The central station operators will call 911 and be able to confirm the alarm condition, emergency situation, by their visual and audio data. The use of that data should end there unless law enforcement subpoenas the data for use by prosecutors in a criminal trial. The data should be admissible because it was not set up by law enforcement without a warrant."

So where can there be some exposure of liability? Misuse of data, Kirschenbaum contends. "Let's say it's a false alarm. The homeowner is wandering around the house barely dressed. Video and audio data confirms no actual illegal activity. No alarm condition is dispatched. The data ends up on the Internet or Comedy Central. That's not going to be good for the central station, but is not an issue for Visonic to be concerned about. The analysis is not just whether there is an expectation of privacy, but how that data is used or abused. That is an issue for the central station. There must be standards and policy for how data is used and stored. The RealAlarm system is obviously a tremendous advance in technology and should increase security as well as reduce false alarms," Kirschenbaum concluded.



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About Visonic

The Visonic Group (TASE:VSC.TA), founded in 1973, is a leading developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge home security systems and components that provide people around the world peace of mind and safety in their homes. Building on its decades-long position at the forefront of home security innovation, Visonic is today leading the drive to expand the boundaries of security, offering advanced solutions to the full range of residential safety needs, from securing the house and contents to safeguarding the health and comfort of the people who live there.

Visonic's offerings include a wide variety of home security systems, personal emergency response and safety systems, and a market-leading variety of peripherals. Visonic is headquartered in Israel, where it operates a development center and manufacturing plant. Its sales and marketing subsidiaries in the USA, Germany, UK, Poland and Spain are supplemented by a worldwide network of distributors, serving a growing installed base that spans around 100 countries. For more information visit: www.visonic.com

ABOUT KENNETH KIRSCHENBAUM:

Kenneth Kirschenbaum founded Kirschenbaum & Kirschenbaum, P.C., in 1977, and since that time has maintained a general practice law firm handling matters for clients ranging from burglar and fire alarm law, general litigation, commercial litigation, general corporate work, matrimonial, and real estate. He is a recognized legal expert in burglar and fire alarm law. His contracts for alarm and security industry for burglar, fire, CCTV, access control, monitoring, central station, service alarm contracts are in use throughout the United States and in Canada. www.alarcontracts.com
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