

# TECHNOLOGY

## THE FUTURE OF SUPERYACHT SECURITY

*Security expert Ed Hill looks at the technological advances that superyacht owners are increasingly using to protect their family and assets from threats.*

"If, for example, a drone is flying over the yacht and taking pictures or gathering sensitive information, we can detect who is operating that drone and locate exactly where that drone is being operated from..."

Sounds like something from James Bond right? Well, not exactly but superyacht owners are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of security in their daily lives. The protection of themselves, their assets and their loved ones from a multitude of threats is being taken more seriously today than ever before.

With risks that include theft and burglary, personal attacks and abduction, being photographed by the paparazzi and even attack by pirates, superyacht owners cannot afford to take any chances by cutting corners on their security. As criminal syndicates are becoming more and more sophisticated; so are the methods being used to combat them and technology is playing a vital role.



### Technology

Technology now plays a significant part in our daily lives and security technology has become a billion dollar global industry. Whether it's CCTV, alarms, or a keypad access control system, most yachts are equipped with some form of on board technology designed to enhance security and preserve the safety of those on board.

However, technological advances are consistently moving at a rapid pace and a number of superyacht owners are remaining ahead of that curve by investing in a whole range of innovative gadgets and devices designed to keep them safe.

Controlling access on board the yacht is a crucial security feature and there are a number of ingenious devices currently available that caters for this. Some yachts have installed a biometric recognition system where an individual can be identified or verified by their facial features, fingerprint or retinal scanning of the eye. This all sounds very impressive however a number of flaws have been identified with these systems and questions have been raised regarding their effectiveness.

When it comes to anti-piracy, some owners have turned to sonic weapons as a means to protect their yachts. Originally designed for crowd control, these 'non-lethal' devices project extremely high powered sound waves designed to disrupt or destroy the eardrums of a target and cause severe pain or disorientation. This discomfort is usually sufficient to incapacitate a person and has been used against seaborne attacks with a reasonable amount of success.

Anthony Parfitt, Chairman of Futronics Group, modestly describes himself as an inventor. "Technology and inventing things is in my blood, I've been doing this since I was a child and nothing phases me". Such is his talent for

technology that he's been approached by a number of large corporations to design and implement a wide range of technological systems. His impressive list of clients include various British police forces, UK DVLA and the UK Home Office.

Anthony is now taking his expertise to the superyacht sector where owners can install a security system that is bespoke to their assets and lifestyle.

"I can enhance and upgrade an existing system or fit a completely new one" he says. "There's no real limits to what I can do, it all depends on what you want. I'm currently designing a system that allows a yacht owner to have visibility and control on all of his assets from anywhere in the world, all controlled from his mobile phone".

"If he wants to check on his home in Moscow, he can. If he wants to turn on the exterior lights on his yacht in Monaco, he can. If he wants to track his private jet, his supercar or even a family member, he can do that too, all from his mobile phone".

Another area he's working on is the installation of panic rooms where sensors can be installed around a property or yacht to give an early warning of intrusion. "The activation of the sensors should give the occupant time to retreat to the safety of a panic room. From there, any trespassers can be viewed via CCTV and systems activated to deny them further access. The trespassers could even be locked in a room while the occupant telephones the police".

### Drones

In recent years, the use of drones has become increasingly popular and concerns have been raised regarding their use by criminals and the paparazzi. However, the use of drones can be advantageous. Anthony continues, "we can utilise standby drones to monitor and patrol perimeters, large estates and large yachts. The drone can take off and land automatically and send live video pictures of trespassers. Discreet sensors can be placed anywhere around your property and on activation by an intruder the drone will automatically be deployed to the area and send live images to your mobile, control room or security staff".

The impact of technology is all around us and now plays a vital role in crime reduction. However, for the superyacht owner, advanced technology gives something extra. Something extra that wouldn't look out of place with James Bond himself....

Ed Hill is an experienced security specialist with over twelve years' experience. A former Royal Marines Commando, Ed now runs his own security and risk management company that specialises in the protection of High Net Worth Individuals, VIP's and celebrities. For more information, please visit [www.intrepid-risk.com](http://www.intrepid-risk.com)