

London. Paris. Milan. These are the fashion capitals of the world, known for unveiling the latest sensations and bringing them to millions of consumers. Of course, the journey from their debut on the runways to our favourite boutiques is one that not many tend to consider. If you shop in Europe, however, that's where the TNT Fashion Group comes in.

TNT FASHION GROUP

Where Security is Always in Fashion



The European market leaders for retail and lifestyle industry warehousing and distribution, TNT Fashion Group is part of TNT Express Services, and has led the field in supplying the retail and lifestyle industry with a one-stop solution. Customers include Nike, Fila, Wolverine, Donna Karan (DKNY), Levi and Diesel. Every type of shop whether boutiques or discount outlets, department stores or even the world famous Harrod's is offered the same high level of delivery service.



And leading the security efforts for this operation is Jon Webster, Head of Security for TNT Fashion Group. Based at the TNT Fashion Group corporate headquarters in Leicester, England, Webster oversees all areas of security for this highly successful division of the Global Express Delivery Company. Webster has been with TNT Fashion Group since 2001, having previously held senior corporate security roles in other companies. Having served in the Royal Navy Service Police and the Police Force, Webster brings a deep desire to protect and provide a high level of customer service to his current responsibilities.

"We move anything and everything connected to the retail and lifestyle industry. We store, process and distribute all items, ranging from hanging garments to footwear to flat packed garments, accessories to display stands, jewellery to fragrances. Each customer's requirements are different, but they all include security and the same high level of service and commitment."

Overseeing operations at both multi-user and single-contract warehouses, which can vary in size from 30,000 to 1.5 million square feet, each demands the best security. And that's where Pelco fits in.

"We began by installing a 32 Pelco camera system within our European Distribution Hub in The Netherlands," Webster explains. And since that time, Pelco systems have been installed at its Divisional Head Office and Distribution Hub in the United Kingdom, as well as at several Network Distribution Depots and Logistic Contract Warehouses throughout Europe.

"Though the demands and requirements of each installation are unique, I use Pelco as the backbone of any system," Webster notes. "The DX8100 [series DVR] is the platform of all of my systems, and in some, I have relied on the added features available through the VMX300 video management system. Additionally, the Spectra and Spectra Mini dome positioning systems surpass any other dome camera on the market, and as for the Esprit integrated positioning system, nothing compares to it."

More Than Security

Many of the systems installed within the various TNT Fashion Group warehouses have a dual role: security and operations. In the latter, managers can use workstations to view and oversee facility operations. Through the use of remote monitoring software, management can view operations at a number of sites without having to physically be present. Jams on conveyor systems, loading or unloading issues and other incidents can be captured by a camera system and reviewed at a later date to enhance operational efficiency.

"I personally find that using these systems for an operational benefit helps to link security awareness into the core of any operation," Webster explained.

"And the teamwork of Pelco, Amsec and TNT assist me in providing this high level of service. They talk, they listen and they deliver. You can have great equipment, but it needs to be installed correctly and backed by great support. Amsec installs integrated security systems better than most, which leads to a perfect set up and display for the end user."

This has undoubtedly led to TNT Fashion Group's reputation, which is second to none. "I am constantly approached by customers and their representatives, and [our operations] are subjected to reviews, audits and inspections," Webster explains. "As our overall standards are pre-set at exceptional levels, we pass each inspection without challenge. Companies such as Pelco and Amsec help us to achieve this. Together we have formed a partnership enabling all customers to benefit from a service like no other before it."

Webster expanded on his philosophy, "Security is all about perception. I only use those companies and products that maintain the same values and standards as I do. In this way, I am better able to protect our employees, our customers and our reputation. I am sure that my adventure will continue and together with Pelco and Amsec, we have come together to form the latest 'must have' fashion accessory." ■