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Business Advocate

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Eyes in the Skies

A pair of Alabama businesses have joined forces to produce the future of large and small business security, deterrence, and interdiction options.

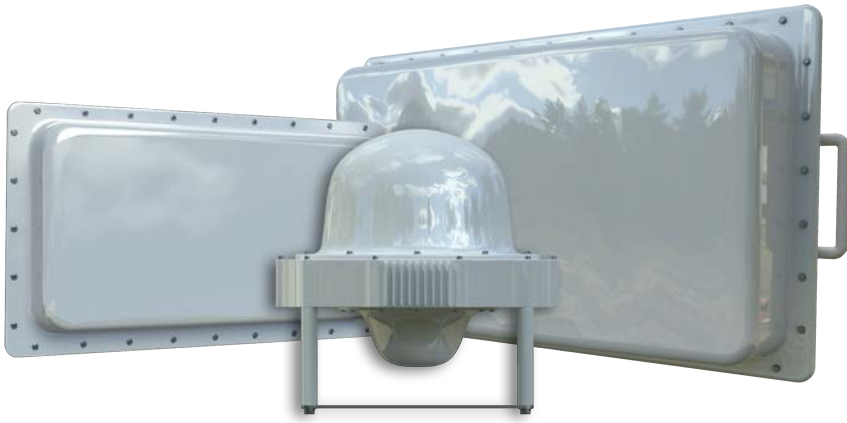
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GroundAware technology utilizes simultaneous multibeam S-band radar



GroundAware technology integrates with existing cameras

Two Alabama Companies Join Together to Push Security Envelope

Two Alabama companies, both members of the Business Council of Alabama, have joined to provide security to large and small companies with simultaneous multibeam S-band radar security systems, including one model that can surveil up to 2,000 acres.

Dynetics, Inc. and Alabama Power Co. announced creation of the commercial business, Observation Without Limits (O.W.L.), in 2017 to feature the GroundAware surveillance sensor system that was introduced by Dynetics four years earlier.

"Dynetics has been serving the complex technical needs of the defense, aerospace, and intelligence sectors for more than 45 years," said David King, Dynetics' chief executive officer. "Our experience in

these areas led directly to the development of commercial products and services for critical infrastructure owner/operators, beginning with GroundAware."

Prior to the creation of O.W.L., Alabama Power early on adopted GroundAware, said Scott Moore, senior vice president of Power Delivery.

"We have found GroundAware to be a superior product that has helped us automate our security systems while enhancing situational awareness, and increasing operational efficiencies," he said.

The company uses the technology to protect the electric infrastructure and facilities that are critical to ensure customers receive the service needed to power homes, businesses, and institutions.

After seeing the benefits of GroundAware and identifying that other utilities, and companies, could use the security solution for important assets, the idea to create O.W.L. as a joint venture between Dynetics and Alabama Power was born.

"Providing innovation solutions to improve our customers' lives and help businesses thrive is an important focus for Alabama Power," said Zeke Smith, executive vice president of External Affairs. "We recognized that same mission and dedication in Dynetics, which is why this strategic

partnership is so valuable. We are proud of the success of Dynetics and O.W.L. for efforts to not only solve security needs for companies in Alabama, but across the globe."

GroundAware instantly initiates pre-determined next steps for visual verification, deterrence, and interdiction. It provides security, safety, and efficiency for critical sites. The system also integrates with existing cameras, video management systems, physical security information management systems, asset management systems, and other security assets creating a layered approach for the best possible protection, according to O.W.L.

Not only does the GroundAware system provide real-time, reliable ground surveillance, GroundAware also makes it possible to remotely monitor and respond to physical security threats in low-altitude airspace by detecting and classifying Class 1 and Class 2 drones from long ranges.

In an O.W.L. demonstration video, an O.W.L. drone is shown projecting a net over a threat drone, capturing it, and hauling it in.

"GroundAware has been used primarily for surveilling and responding to ground-based threats," said O.W.L. President Mike Stokes, a member of Dynetics' executive staff. "But as we've seen an expansion in the use of drones, we knew we needed to improve our family of products. We now



A GroundAware security array can provide security up to 2,000 acres



offer a radar that can detect drones up to five kilometers away."

O.W.L. focuses on the specialized needs of critical infrastructure sectors and is suitable for protecting exposed perimeters, extensive grounds, and restricted areas such as airports, power plants, electrical substations, drilling sites, prisons, forward operating bases, as well as hydroelectric and flood-control dams.

One Alabama Power site using GroundAware recently prevented a major security threat thanks to the real-time physical surveillance and security technology the system provides.

Thurlow Dam on the Tallapoosa River in Tallassee between Montgomery and Auburn is an awesome technological feat secured to a rocky shoal that underpins the hydroelectric marvel.

Security of the dam, in addition to the dam's actual integrity, is high on Alabama

Power's critical list as it is for every dam that not only produces electricity but also provides flood control.

"GroundAware has helped our security to be able to identify security threats more accurately and more efficiently," Alabama Power Hydro Manager Chris Goodman said. "GroundAware covers a large area and identifies people and distinguishes people from wildlife."

Goodman said that four or five persons once tried to sneak below the spillway on the rocky shoals. At the time it was unknown if it was just joy-hiking kids or vandals or adults intent on damage or destruction.

"It was a public safety concern as well as a vandalism concern," Goodman said. "The GroundAware system detected them very quickly from about a thousand feet away, at night, which was great. Security got the alarm and notified local law enforcement who removed them."

Alabama Power is in its 113th year of operation providing electricity, products, services, and economic development to millions of Alabamians.

Dynetics is a 100 percent employee-owned company created in 1974. It has grown from 25 employees in 1977 and now operates in 10 states.

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Previous issues available at bcatoday.org.

Executive Editor:

Nancy Wall Hewston

The Business Advocate is published by the Business Council of Alabama, a non-partisan, statewide business association representing the interests and concerns of nearly 1 million working Alabamians through its member companies and its partnership with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama. For more information on becoming a member of the BCA, contact Elaine Fincannon, 334-240-8749, or elaenef@bcatoday.org.

The EVENING

for Progress

AT THE
GRAND BOHEMIAN HOTEL

We're having a special event, celebrating and supporting the Business Council of Alabama's

★ ★ ★ *Progress PAC* ★ ★ ★

Date: 11/4/19

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Attire: *Cocktail*

Location: *The Grand
Bohemian Hotel*

2655 Lane Park Rd, Birmingham, AL 35223

On November 4th, investors in the "Carrying the Flag for Business" campaign will have the opportunity to mingle with Alabama's most prominent business and political leaders at the premier fundraising event of the year.

Tickets are limited; **investments are not.**

For more information, please call or email
MOLLY CAGLE

mcagle@bcatoday.org | 334.240.8701