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Blog - FLIR Cameras No Longer Exclusive to Law Enforcement and Industry - 8:34 AM, January 8, 2008 Options

entmokey
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I attended CES showstoppers yesterday night, which is basically a chance for smaller companies at CES to showcase their products in a smaller venue where they will be noticed. Many of the products being offered had already been released and aren't exclusive to CES right now, but I still wanted to share what I found to be a very neat offering: forward-looking-infrared (FLIR) cameras on the consumer level, which have been rolling out rather quietly over the past year or so.

In case you're not already familiar with FLIR, it's not the green-looking night vision you frequently see on TV, which has been available to consumers for quite some time. FLIR is the black and white image you see, for instance, from helicopters on a man hunt. It's a form of thermal imaging, meaning hotter things show up as white, and colder things show up as black.

The technology itself isn't new, but the means to produce it affordably enough for average people to buy is. Don't get me wrong, the cameras aren't cheap by any means, but compared to the prices they used to demand, the drop is significant. A FLIR representative told me the same camera that used to cost \$35,000 when it was only available to the military now sells for about \$3,500, thanks in part to the scaled up manufacturing process FLIR adopted to bring it to a wider market.

The new consumer-level FLIR line includes cameras for aviation, boating, automotive, and home security. I don't have exact prices for every model, but I can safely say that each one is in the thousands. This isn't the kind of tech you might install to watch the front door while you're away, but early adopter type folks with an interest in security might find these exotic cameras pretty attractive.

Anyway, here are some pictures:

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Nick Mokey
Official Future Shop Blogger for CES 2008

01-08-2008 08:40 AM

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