

Press release



HM-Series

FLIR Systems launches HM-Series

Portable thermal imaging cameras for maritime applications

The HM-Series are handheld shock-resistant thermal imaging cameras. They produce a crisp image in the darkest of nights. The HM-Series will dramatically increase your situational awareness. The HM-Series can be used on board of all types of vessels. Commercial ships, tug and tow boats, work boats, police and law enforcement boats will all benefit from the power of thermal imaging.

The HM-Series thermal imaging cameras are excellent tools for night-time navigation, securing any shipboard environment, anti-piracy and many other maritime applications. Whether you are anchored in port or sailing in the open sea, you will be able to see in total darkness. The HM-Series provide a 24° field of view. This offers an excellent combination of range performance and situational awareness. For longer range performance, the HM-Series can be equipped with a 2X extender which offers a 12° field of view.

Extremely affordable

The HM-Series are extremely affordable units. From now on, everyone can afford thermal night vision. Price is no longer an issue. There is no longer a need to use a less effective night vision technology.

Crisp thermal images

The HM-224 produces thermal images of 240 x 180 pixels. The HM-324 XP+ produces thermal images of 320 x 240 pixels on which the smallest of details can be seen. Both cameras are equipped with advanced internal camera software that delivers a crisp image without the need for user adjustments.

Extremely portable and rugged

Weighing 660 grams, batteries included, the HM-Series are extremely compact and extremely light systems. They are ideal for go-anywhere operations, in all circumstances. They are IP67 rated. Ergonomic and easy-to-use, the HM-Series are fully controlled with just 5 buttons on top of the unit. Conveniently placed, all buttons are right underneath your fingertips.

Long battery life

The HM-Series have an operating time of over 5 hours on a single charge. They work on 4 rechargeable AA NiMH batteries that come with the camera. The HM-Series can also run on standard non-rechargeable Alkaline or Lithium Ion AA batteries.

Different versions available

The HM-Series are available in two different versions:

HM-224:

The HM-224 produces thermal images of 240 x 180 pixels. It contains all the necessary features for maritime applications. To see in all weather conditions, in the darkest of nights. It operates between 0°C and +50°C.

HM-324 XP+:

The HM-324 XP+ produces crisp thermal images of 320 x 240 pixels. It operates between -20°C and +60°C. It comes with a number of useful features such as:

- Image storage :
Allows storing thermal images in JPEG format on a removable SD-card by the touch of a button. A 1 GB SD-card holds up to 20,000 images.
- Video storage: By holding a button, the FLIR HM-324 XP+ has the ability to record full frame rate MPEG-4 video. The FLIR HM-324 XP+ can record more than 2 hours of video on a 1 GB SD-card.
- USB2 connection: Can be used to transfer the saved images to a PC.
- Digital zoom: A 2X digital zoom allows you to have a closer look at objects when necessary.

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Thermal imaging versus image intensification (I²)

Image intensification, also referred to as I² technology, amplifies small amounts of visible light thousands of times so that objects can be seen at night. Image intensification does require a certain level of ambient light, but even starlight can produce an image on a cloudless night. Because the system requires at least a minimum level of ambient light, conditions such as heavy overcast can limit its effectiveness. Similarly, too much light may overwhelm the system and reduce its effectiveness.

Thermal imaging cameras like the HM-Series offer some benefits over image intensification. They work by detecting the heat energy being radiated and need no light at all to produce a clear image in the darkest environments. Thermal imaging cameras are not affected by the amount of light so that you will not be blinded when looking at a light source.

About thermal imaging

Thermal imaging is the use of a thermal imaging camera to “see” thermal energy emitted from an object. Thermal, or infrared energy, is light that is not visible to the human eye because its wavelength is too long to be detected. It’s the part of the electromagnetic spectrum that we perceive as heat. Infrared allows us to see what our eyes cannot. Thermal imaging cameras produce images of invisible infrared or “heat” radiation. Based on temperature differences between objects, thermal imaging produces a clear image.

In contrast with other technologies, such as image intensification, thermal imaging needs no light whatsoever to produce an image on which the smallest of details can be seen. Thermal imaging provides full visibility irrespective of the prevailing light level and weather conditions. It can see in total darkness, in the darkest of nights, through light fog and smoke.

Thermal imaging has numerous maritime applications such as night-time navigation, man overboard searches, securing ship-board environment, anti-piracy, ... Numerous yachts and commercial vessels are already equipped with the power of thermal imaging.

About FLIR Systems

FLIR Systems is the world leader in the design and manufacturing of thermal imaging cameras for a wide variety of applications. It has over 50 years of experience and thousands of thermal imaging cameras currently in use worldwide for security and surveillance, maritime, automotive and other night vision applications. FLIR Systems has four manufacturing plants located in the USA: Portland, Boston, Santa Barbara and Bozeman, one in Stockholm, Sweden and one near Paris, France. It operates offices in the Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, USA and the United Kingdom. The company has over 1,900 dedicated infrared specialists, and serves international markets through an international distributor network providing local sales and support functions.

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