

DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT!!!

A guide to contracting an IRT specialist

With the introduction of cheaper infrared camera equipment more and more individuals and companies are offering thermal imaging services over a wider range of industrial applications. Although in practice this can only be a good thing for the relevant industries, caution should be employed when contracting thermal imaging 'specialists'.

Many individuals are realising that they can now afford the new entry level camera prices being offered by the camera manufactures. This coupled with the 'recessional' special offers of extra accessories, software and courses makes the idea of setting up a thermal imaging company very attractive. Some are arguably very methodical in their approach to offering services and would not offer themselves up as contractors until they have all the necessary qualifications and certification in place. However there are many people out there that have purchased a camera and are ready to take on the world with no form of recognized training or certification.

Let's use the building & construction industry as an example. We are, whether we like it not, in a period of climate change and energy conservation which has led to the formation of companies dealing with energy conservation and a tightening of building regulations. This along with the assistance of government agencies, carbon saving initiatives and many other energy advisory bodies has led to an increase in companies offering infrared building services. Although some companies are highly qualified and experienced in their fields many have come from other backgrounds outside of building & construction and are using their cameras in these arenas for the first time. As an infrared consultancy we have seen many reports that contain misleading information and which, in some cases, has led to large outlays of capital for remedial repairs that have been unnecessary.

Unfortunately, this scenario is not the exclusive domain of the building & construction industry as it is also prevalent across other industrial applications. Our suggestion for companies wishing to contract in an infrared service provider would be to ask some pertinent questions prior to selecting a provider. Time spend at the beginning, they say, is time saved at the end. In this case, time spent at the beginning could be money saved at the end!

'What should I ask a provider' I hear you say, well, a suggestion may be:

- What type of camera equipment and software do you use?
- What experience or qualifications do have in this field?
- Are you member of any professional body that associate themselves with this application?
- Do you have adequate insurance indemnity cover?
- Do you have an H&S Policy, Method Statements and Risk Assessments?
- Do you have an Environmental Statement/Policy?
- Do you have a copy of a previous report for this type of application?

Infrared Vision Ltd hope that this has been of assistance to you and will help your company in choosing an infrared provider that will save you money - **not cost you money**.

Infrared Vision Limited, Horsingtons Yard, Tiverton Place, Lion Street,
Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5PN.

Tel: 08452 90 20 90 - www.infraredvision.co.uk



Combining IRT solutions with quality and service

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