PIRATE DEFENCE SYSTEM LAUNCHED

United Kingdom-based, marine security specialist company, Photonic Security Systems (PSS) launch a new proactive pirate defence system, the LDS100, earlier this month.

The LDS100 acts in what is said to be a non-lethal and humane manner and is based on a proactive method to prevent pirates from approaching a ship. The system works by sending a ten metre wide multi-band laser light beam, up to a distance of one kilometre to dazzle potential intruders and disable them from locating and boarding the ship. This newly developed alternative is expected to prevent pirates boarding merchant ships. It is said to makes it very difficult for the miscreants to filter the beam and still retain a view of the intended target.

The LDS100 is located in the ship’s hull, making it difficult to be destroyed by the intruder. The product’s inventors/designers believe this is a key point to its success. The standard LDS100 incorporates a twin laser system, with the command centre mounted inside the bridge. Laser optics are mounted on swivelling and tilting, tracking cameras on brackets on each side of the vessel, to enable it to track incoming craft.

PSS technology uses multi-colour channels that are blended via a transmitter control unit and then directed to a lens through a fibre optic cable. When activated and directed at an incoming craft, the multi-colour laser inflicts a dazzling effect allowing the vessels’s master to take a suitable evasive course of action to minimise further attacks.

Paul Kerr of PSS commented, "The problems of piracy at sea have been prevalent for some years, with many ships and crews having been held hostage. At PSS we believe we have developed a new commercial product that will assist to reduce piracy at sea. The LDS100’s laser beam will temporarily stun the intruders and enable the Captain to take evasive action. A few seconds can make all the difference."

Each unit package is built to suit the voltage supply available onboard and to the requirements of the vessel’s owner or managers. The warm-up time is said to be short and units can also be linked to threat detection devices or thermal imaging equipment.
Photonic Security Systems (PSS) are a team of professionals who work closely with superyacht owners and shipping companies to protect them, their crew and assets through non-lethal professional nautical security solutions.