



Ref: FLIR\261

Date of issue: November 2005

## **FLIR INFRARED CAMERAS JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST BIRD FLU**

The World Health Organisation has issued a warning that if the H5N1 strain of avian flu attaches itself to the common human flu virus its mortality rate amongst humans would be far higher than that of SARS.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 there had been 120 cases of avian flu in humans in South East Asia leading to 62 deaths.\* By comparison SARS has killed around 800 people worldwide but infected more than 8,400. Controlling the spread of this latest threat to human health clearly demands vigilance and as with SARS, infrared thermography is proving to be an excellent non-invasive method of monitoring people.

The symptoms of avian flu are similar to those of other types of flu – malaise, sore throat, cough and of course fever. The ability of the FLIR Systems ThermaCAM<sup>®</sup> infrared cameras to measure differences in the surface temperature of skin as small as 0.08°C, lead to their wide use in controlling the spread of SARS. They became vital monitoring tools for airports, hospitals and public health authorities worldwide.

With their proven track record for detecting those whose elevated body temperature could be an indicator of infection, the ThermaCAM<sup>®</sup> range is again being specified to counter the spread of avian flu. Thanks to ThermaCAM<sup>®</sup>'s built in functions such as colour and sound alarms the operator can instantly decide whether the subject needs to be referred for medical examination. As the camera produces images in real-time, at a rate of 50Hz, the total evaluation process takes less than a second. This makes the camera ideal for screening large numbers of people.

A feature unique to the ThermaCAM<sup>®</sup> infrared camera is its ATC automatic temperature compensation. ATC constantly calculates the moving average of body temperature of the last ten people scanned. The two highest and the two lowest values are not taken into account when making this calculation. Based on the outcome ATC automatically adjusts the generation of visible and audible alarms greatly improving the reliability of ‘diagnosis’.

FLIR Systems manufactures both portable and fixed cameras suitable for this application, dependent on the requirement. They will automatically detect hotspots on the face and their value can be immediately read on the built-in LCD or via video monitor. Both systems are optimised for fever detection as they recalibrate themselves more frequently and have a higher inherent measurement stability than other models. As fully radiometric cameras there is no need to use temperature reference sources in the field of view – this is particularly relevant when scanning mobile populations in environments such as airports, stations and building lobby’s.

With a few hours of training the FLIR Systems ThermaCAM<sup>®</sup> can be operated by a non-medical to scan large numbers of people quickly and accurately for symptoms of infection. As one user commented at the height of the SARS crisis “The ThermaCAM<sup>®</sup> is such a small investment to protect public health worldwide”.

*\* Statistics from World Health Organisation: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).*

**-ENDS-**

**Press enquiries, electronic press releases and digital photography:**

**Trudi, Sal or Caroline at NEW RIVER**  
**Tel: 01920 468443 Fax: 01920 460528**  
**Email: [info@newriver.co.uk](mailto:info@newriver.co.uk) [www.newriver.co.uk](http://www.newriver.co.uk)**