

Best Practice: Dual Function Perimeter Access Control



Category:	Access Control
Location:	Port of Sohar, Oman
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WWW:	http://www.portofsohar.com/

Description Perimeter Access Control Barrier with dual functions.

Discussion: In the early stages of design, the Sohar Industrial Port Company recognized the infrastructure need for cooling water to attract new industries to the port complex and the requirement to maintain perimeter access control. They chose to combine these requirements into a dual function channel that provides abundant cooling water and is also an effective access barrier around seventy-five percent of the complex. This concrete channel is fifty meters wide, twenty meters deep and carries a continuous free flow of water. The remainder of the port area is enclosed by chain link fencing top with multiple strands of barbed wire.

Potential Down-side: Construction of a barrier channel requires land that may not be available at other ports and is more expensive than fencing or walls.

Conclusion: For development and construction of a new industrial port facility such as Sohar, this is a practical and effective way to meet two requirements with one feature. Although it could be cost prohibitive if it were constructed solely as a security barrier, the decision to design and build the cooling water to also function as a perimeter barrier shows a creative solution to two problems.

Cost: The construction cost of this particular barrier would likely make it impractical to be used solely for perimeter control. However, for similar new construction of industrial ports where the multi-function aspect can be utilized, the practicality becomes greater.