

The Prison Authority is examining a system developed by the Israeli company "Bio-Sense" that analyzes dog barks. The system examines the barks and determines whether the bark is due to a person, an animal, a car or is just a bark of joy.

By Tzuri Dar

The Prison Authority is currently examining a system developed by the Israeli company Bio-Sense Technologies for the interpretation of dog barks. This is a prototype system which was installed for a trial period at the Be'er Sheva Prison, housing around 3,000 prisoners, of which 300 are security prisoners. The system monitors the responses of 22-24 dogs that guard Be'er Sheva Prison compounds during the night. The system is characterized and improved according to the needs of the Prison Authority, and is financed by the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Public Security.

Bio-Sense, working out of the Maayan Ventures incubator in Be'er Sheva, developed a system known as the Dog Bio Security Systems (DBS) which interprets dog behavior through a sensitive array of sensors. The system includes sound sensors that are installed near the dog and record the dog barks during times of distress. This is then sent to the system control center which can track the nature of the barks and determine whether we are talking about a bark at a human being, an animal, a car, or a bark of joy. In the future, the system will be integrated into dog collars or as chips on the dog's body and could analyze additional parameters such as smells, materials and changes in the dog's body temperature. The system can interface with cellular networks and transmit possible intrusion alerts to the security coordinators directly to their cellular phones.

According to Eyal Zehavi, Bio-Sense CEO and co-founder, the dog's abilities as a security sensor exceed all the other technologies currently on the market. Therefore, their ability to expose and forewarn have no competition. Zehavi estimates that in the future the system will be purchased and installed in most prisons in Israel.

Bio-Sense was established in 2003 by Eyal Zehavi, Zohar Bar Lev, Dr. Eli Tzirkel – a signal processing expert, and Dr. Irit Gazit – a canine behaviorist. The company, which joined the Ma'ayan Incubator in December 2003, raised \$450,000 from the chief scientist of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, and is working to raise a few million dollars by the end of the year.

These days, the Bio-Sense system is being reviewed by potential clients such as settlements, agricultural farms and security industries.

Maayan Ventures, an early stage investment group, works in collaboration with Infinity Venture Capital which is owned by Leon Recanati, and Dr. Israel Yuval, E&M Computing and Partner 500.

