



## **Security Director News**

### **Securing the Infrastructure Government Seeks Details of Private Security**

By Andrea Gural  
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WASHINGTON-A federal initiative that seeks to ultimately improve security measures surrounding the country's critical infrastructure is asking the private sector to file its company-specific security plans with the government.

The move is part of the government's Critical Infrastructure Information Program, which, under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, is aimed at developing plans for protecting energy companies, communication and financial networks and transportation ways. The private sector companies own and control about 85 percent of these operations.

Although published reports said that some high-profile companies were willing to share security plans with the government, concerns about how this information would be used - and protected - have overshadowed the process. The government has issued a guarantee that the information would be exempt from Freedom of Information Act requirements.

"Clearly disclosing a weakness is something that is not a natural act for a corporation or a human to do," said Raul Fernandez, chairman and chief executive officer of Object Video, a developer of intelligent video surveillance software. Fernandez's company works with many chemical and energy companies, designated critical infrastructure companies, grappling with this and other post-Sept. 11 security issues and said it's crucial for both the private sector and the government to strive for the same security standards. If not, "we are one incident away from having all this mandated," he said.

Marian Hopkins, director, public policy for the Business Roundtable, a trade group that represents chief executive officers at leading U.S. corporations, echoed the importance of a partnership between government and private companies, calling the critical infrastructure program the beginning of a "mechanism for a confidential dialogue."

The group encourages companies to take a look at the program and how the companies could share information with Homeland Security officials.

"And then we would hope that the government would share with those of us in the private sector information about potential terrorist threats," Hopkins said.