CHARLESTON
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT


CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

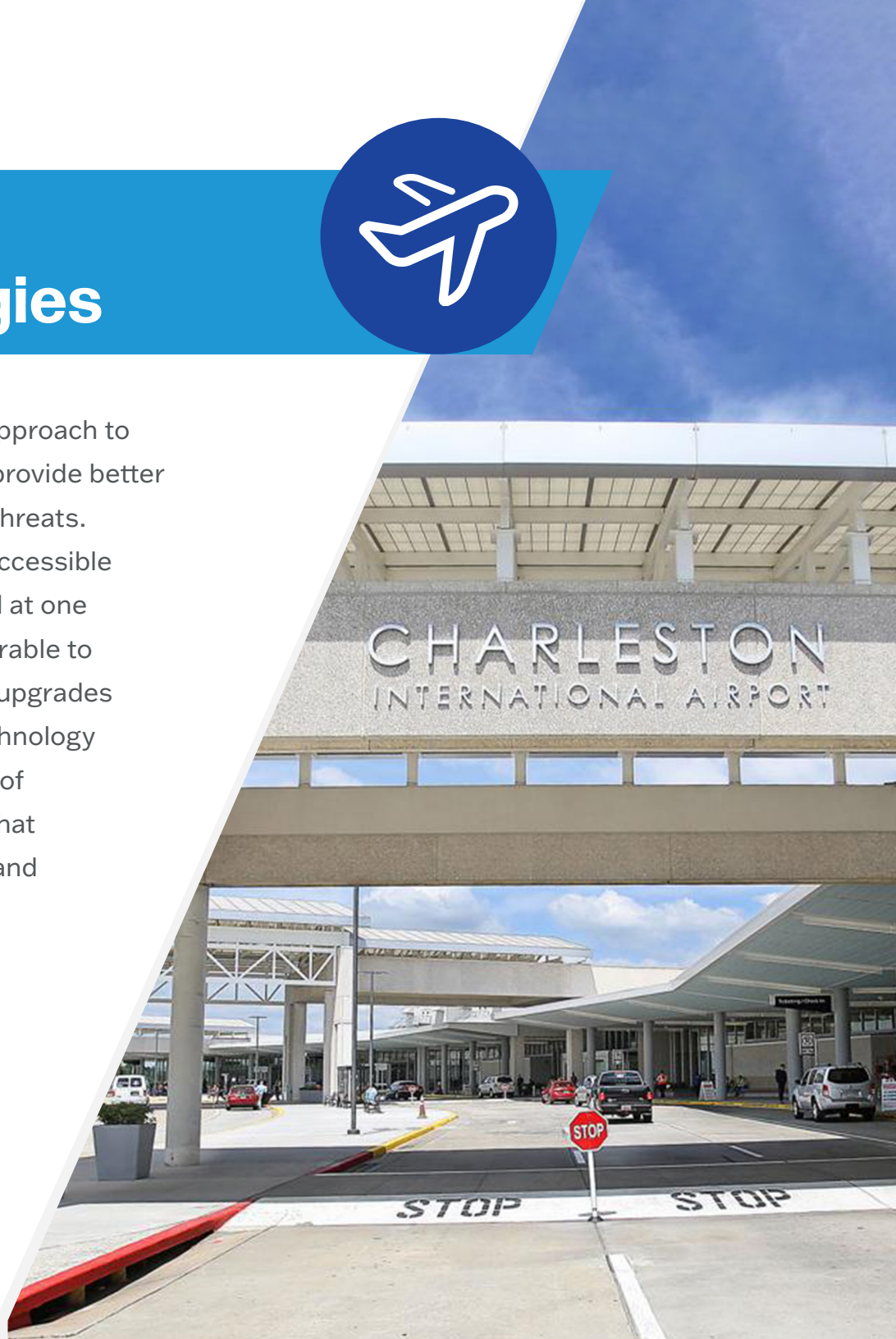
# Amplifying Airport Security with Gun Detection

Shooter Detection Systems™

AN ALARM.COM COMPANY

# Searching for Proven Gun Violence Technologies

Charleston International Airport (CHS) takes a proactive approach to security and is continually seeking advanced solutions to provide better protection for airport passengers against all measures of threats. All transportation terminals are intended to be open and accessible environments where thousands of people can be gathered at one time, a fact that unfortunately makes these facilities vulnerable to targeted acts of violence. While reviewing overall security upgrades during a terminal rebuild project, CHS began targeting technology that could help in active shooter incidents. Given the level of noise in the airport environment, they wanted assurance that the product they selected would reliably detect gunshots and reduce the potential for false alerts to near zero.



# A Proven Solution Professionals Can Rely On

The adoption of the SDS Indoor Gunshot Detection System at CHS came after an exhaustive review of various gunshot detection systems, says Tedd Steele, senior network architect at CHS. Ultimately, the airport selected the SDS solution for its technology, performance, and third-party credentials including SAFETY Act Certification by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Airport officials also liked that the airport's security systems provider, Johnson Controls Security Solutions, had previously partnered with SDS on other projects. "We wanted a system that was very reliable and compatible with what we already had," summarizes Airport Security Manager Nick Haynes.

**The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's SAFETY Act Certification status was a key deciding factor in system selection for CHS. The SDS Indoor Gunshot Detection System (formerly called Guardian) has been SAFETY Act Certified since 2017.**

# Integration Drives Faster Response Times

Charleston International chose SDS to cover all publicly accessible areas that are not behind the TSA checkpoint, including ticketing and baggage claim. To maximize situational awareness and respond as quickly as possible to gun violence events, the airport integrated SDS' solution with their C-CURE 9000 access control system. The SDS Indoor/C-CURE integration is easily configured to create gunshot detection alarms, activate door locking or open doors for safe egress, queue cameras to record a shooter's location, and stream live video along with associated maps to significantly reduce response time to active shooter incidents.


## Integration Amplifies Response Capabilities

The extent of integration at CHS is what makes its system truly unique—and more effective, states Greg Livesay, a business development specialist with the Advanced Technologies Group, Government Technologies of Johnson Controls Security Solutions. A standalone gunshot detection system that is not integrated into other airport systems would simply connect to a computer in the security operations center and send messages to first responders. "When you move to what Charleston's done with integration, users don't interact with the gateway anymore; they interact with their usual systems. Shot detection becomes another sensor on their workstations," he explains. "A video management system has a graphical user interface of camera locations; so when a gunshot goes off, video from that area will be pulled to the front. Operators will see it and turn to their standard operating procedure, which is an all-call on the radio with a description of the suspect and location. There will also be some predictive knowledge going out, such as where the shooter is headed. They are no longer just responding to a threat but responding in an intelligent way.

The content of this case study is based on an article originally published in Airport Improvement Magazine. The original article can be accessed here.

> **Safety is our first priority. With this system our first responders will quickly receive shot location information so they can respond directly to a verified threat with added situational awareness. It's lifesaving technology that adds a vital layer of security against the active shooter threat.**
>
> **PAUL CAMPBELL**
> Executive Director and CEO of the CCAA

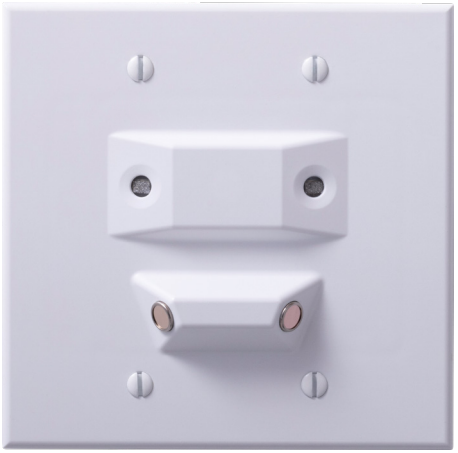
# Grant Funding Support

### Is funding for Active Shooter Detection Systems allowed under federal and state grants?

Yes, as they can be classified as communications systems that alert or communicate with local law enforcement resources. SDS can help qualified institutions get funding for a gunshot detection system thanks to our Grants Assistance Program. Contact us today to see if your organization meets the qualification requirements for grant funding.

The SDS Indoor Gunshot Detection System is SAFETY Act Certified by the Department of Homeland Security, adding a layer of confidence in the performance and operability of the overall system.

For more information about how you can integrate gunshot detection into your active shooter response plans, contact a gunshot detection specialist today by calling 1-844-SHOT911 or emailing Sales@ShooterDetectionSystems.com.



**The SDS Indoor Gunshot Detection sensor blends seamlessly into any environment. The sensors utilize acoustic and infrared flash verification to ensure superior accuracy.**

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The SDS Indoor Gunshot Detection System is a three time Campus Safety BEST winner and is SAFETY Act Certified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.*

**Formerly called the Guardian Indoor Active Shooter Detection System*

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