

Test panel bodycams chooses Zepcam T2+



The Zepcam will be introduced into all units in the upcoming month. With an average score of 8.7, it was clearly the best choice for the police.

The decision has been made: the police will purchase bodycams from Zepcam for all units. The first ones have already arrived. How did the police come to the decision to purchase these cameras?

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At the end of May, the training centre in Ossendrecht will be the stage for 32 police officers who will subject seven different bodycams to intensive tests. This user test is the most important link in the contracting of the cameras. For two days, the police officers, who are divided into seven teams, will work with the bodycams. Ossendrecht is an ideal site for this. The location offers facilities to simulate various realistic scenarios. Moreover, there is a lot of space, which is necessary due to the current corona measures. One of the testers is AD from the Enschede-South base team. Her work can get rough sometimes, says the officer. "It is very important that the camera is vandal-proof. I have football and horeca shifts. Altercations occur during these times. Therefore, the camera must be able to withstand a lot." Image quality is also important to AD. "There is quite a difference", she notes. "The goal of the police is to de-escalate and we are consciously working on that. But we also search for the truth, we want to be able to look at the images again. What had exactly happened? That has to be clearly visible, so unclear images are of little use to us."

Versatile

Within the police, there are about twenty thousand potential users of the bodycam. So it must be versatile. The bodycam will be worn by community police officers, but also by bikers and dog handlers, for example. And they all have their own preferences and wishes. "We focused on maximum consensus", says project leader FV. "You shouldn't rush a camera like that through. That is why we have invested so heavily in the user test."

Retrospection

The process for purchasing the bodycams took two years. These were the main steps:

end of 2018: police force decision to purchase two thousand bodycams;

June 2019: start of European procurement with programme of requirements and market consultation;

March 2020: formal procurement starts, process continues with seven serious candidates;

May 2020: user test bodycams;

May 2020: test infrastructure and support;

August 2020: in principle, the choice falls on Zepcam, provided that the system can be protected against burglary (hacking). For this reason, a penetration test will be planned;

September 2020: successful penetration test;

October 2020: definitive go for Zepcam;

November 2020: start rollout of bodycams.

The bodycams were tested in Ossendrecht. After each test round, colleagues filled in an evaluation form in which they could assess the bodycam on various points.

The bodycam must be able to take a beating. During a fight, or with the deployment of a dog handler such as here, the device must remain steadily in place.

“Such a bodycam must, of course, be vandal-proof”

These aren't regular office supplies, but rather important equipment for many colleagues who will be working with them. Besides, if we simply buy the cheapest one while the user does not care for it, it will not be used. That would be a waste of the investment. “The user test accounts for 65 percent in the final choice”, says FV. “Various points are considered: the user-

friendliness, fasteners and application that comes with the bodycam. The 32 testers come from all units and have various specialisations. These include colleagues from basic teams, but also motorcyclists, dog handlers, bikers and nautical police.” The police officers have specific requirements for the camera from their perspective of their field. The motorcycle officer RD, for example, also looks at the use of the bodycam while riding the patrol motorcycle. “As a motorcyclist, it is of great added value if you can also film while riding”, he explains. “It is important to us that the bodycam has a strong magnet that can be mounted high on your motorcycle jacket. An adjustable attachment point is desirable because you have a different sitting position compared to in the car.”

Strong opinions

The testers have strong opinions, FV notes. “I like it when people are so keenly involved in it. Don't beat around the bush, but just say 'this doesn't work, this sucks' and 'that's great'. That is clear, it makes assessment easier. In the evaluations we, of course, ask the testers to substantiate their opinion; why does something work well or not at all. Everyone is enthusiastic and colleagues quickly get the hang of the various devices, including people who do not know anything about it. They are assisted by colleagues who are already more experienced with the bodycams and applications. “The test teams utilise the practice environment in Ossendrecht. For example, the dog handlers simulate searching for a suspect in a building. That is a work situation that occurs regularly. “It is important for us that the cameras continue to work properly in changes of light”, says SOV of dog handlers East-Netherlands. “We are often summoned late in the evening and at night. The camera must therefore continue to work well in the dark, as well as in situations where the light changes quickly.” Like his colleague on the motorcycle, SOV wants to be able to adjust the camera on his uniform. “We point the bodycam more downwards. It is important to capture the image around the dog. If something happens then, “it is nice if that is captured on camera.”

“Impatient with devices”

Not all testers have previous experiences with bodycams. That is a conscious choice, FV explains. “We don't just want people who have already worked with it in the testing grounds, we also want inexperienced people in the test panel.” One of them is a community police officer RL. “I had no experience whatsoever with bodycams, as I had clearly expressed beforehand. I am quite impatient with digital devices. It just has to work and not be too complicated, otherwise I won't use it. This is what I am paying attention to when testing; whether it is easy to use. In terms of operation, the software aspect and the attachment to your uniform.” According to RL, his team has tested realistic situations. “We were free to decide for ourselves what was useful and where problems might arise. For example, we tested the cameras while running, tried out the fixings, and went from dark to light rooms.” According to the police officer, there were big differences between the different bodycams. “That became clear as the tests progressed”, he says. “But everyone has their preferences.” Ultimately, the Zepcam clearly emerged as the best with an average score of 8.7, says project leader FV. “There were, however, significant differences between suppliers, there was a clear ranking. The Zepcam scored best on all points in the procurement, including the price.” The rollout of the cameras has now started. The bodycams will be shipped to all units in the coming months.

SPECIFICATIONS ZEPCAM T2+

Video resolution max. 1920x1080, 30 frames per second

Pre-record recording for up to 60 seconds

location determination built-in GPS system

Audio 128kb/s, mono

Data storage space 64GB

Data security AES 256 bit encryption

Battery 3200mAh Lithium-Ion, charges from empty to 100% in 3.5 hours

battery life 10.30 hours when filming, 10.40 hours on standby

lens 140-degree wide-angle lens

Night mode Automatic infrared mode for dark environment

Weight 115 grams (without fixings)

Dimensions 72x56x24mm

Silent mode Light and sound indications can be turned off

[Source: Zepcam.com](http://Zepcam.com)