Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this short introduction, I would like to tell you something about the current situation in the Netherlands with regard to applying electronic monitoring within the prison walls.

For quite some time, the Netherlands has had programmes in place, including forms of electronic monitoring, which are used for detainees who are not confined to prison; the home detention programmes. These programmes are open to both long-term detainees, who may serve the last part of their sentence at home and to short-term detainees, who serve their entire sentence at home. Home detention means that we use a static form of electronic monitoring; we can see whether the detainee is at home or not.
In addition, we have been running experiments with dynamic monitoring, which uses GPS technology. We also experiment with voice-verification technology, to make sure that football hooligans do not violate their banning orders, and the Probation Service will soon start applying alcohol remote control.

In this workshop, however, I would like to focus on tracking and tracing within the prison walls. We are currently running experiments in two prisons:

1. The low-security prison Bankenbosch in Veenhuizen.
This prison accommodates about 200 detainees who serve sentences ranging from a few days to eighteen months. Some of the detainees work outside the facility during the day. The premises are equipped with the TRACE system developed by Elmotech; all detainees wear anklets. This allows staff to monitor the movements of the detainees. In the beginning, the system was only used at night, to make sure that the detainees stayed within their department. This system proves really effective. During daytime, the system was not used. Data from the system can also be used to verify at a later date where someone was at a specific moment, for example if an incident had occurred. At present, the system is also used during the day. Heads are 'counted' electronically several times a day, and detainees that pose a certain risk are followed actively with the system at daytime.
We also have had our share of problems: it proved difficult to regulate the system accurately (which also has to do with the structure in which it is used: a lot of brick and wood), and in the beginning a lot of reports had to do with detainees sabotaging their anklet. Initially, the detainees wore a bracelet, and they were tempted to remove it. That is why we switched to using anklets; this results in a significant decrease in sabotage.
The costs of the system at Bankenbosch are:

Acquisition of system:	EUR 500,000
Running cost (replacement of anklets, maintenance and service)	EUR 100,000 per year.

The experiment in the Bankenbosch prison will run until the end of this year, after which it will be evaluated.

2. The prison in Lelystad.
In Lelystad, an experimental prison was built, with the aim of reducing staffing costs. Thanks to the design of the building, almost all movements within the building can be monitored from one central point. The distances between the cells and other departments are short and easy to oversee. The cells are shared cells, with a capacity of six, and the detainees do everything in a group of six or a multiple thereof.
The starting point is to give the detainees as much responsibility as possible. This Lelystad prison also uses a tracking & tracing system. Trials with systems of two different suppliers are

being held: Transquest and Geodan. Transquest works on the basis of zones, Geodan on the basis of triangulation.
Not only are the systems used for tracking & tracing, detainees can also use their bracelet to log in on a monitor next to their bed. That way, they can access several services: telephone, orders in the detainees' shop, registering visitors, registering activities, etc. Charges involved are directly debited from their account. Less staff is necessary because detainees can arrange these matters independently.

Results

Results may be found in three different areas:
- cost savings
- security
- ease of use for staff and/or detainees

As neither project has yet been evaluated, it is too soon to draw conclusions. However, I feel it would not be inappropriate to give a few pointers:
1. using electronic monitoring does not automatically result in cost savings. That is only true if less staff is necessary thanks to the use of electronic monitoring. That often requires a combination of electronic monitoring and other measures, such as a change in logistics within the prison.
2. implementation of electronic monitoring can definitely contribute towards more security. Staff, for example, will feel less insecure, but the same may be true for detainees (e.g. it may prevent fights and theft). However, there is the risk of overkill: sometimes the same result can be achieved with "old-fashioned" measures, such as using cameras.
3. it will only be easy to use for detainees if the system is combined with other systems, such as is done in the Lelystad facility. It is definitely convenient for staff, for example where electronic head counts need to be done, or where they no longer need to supervise detainees going from one place to the next within the institution. However, they need to be instructed on using the system: it generates so many data and reports that this may be experienced as a burden.

Last but not least, I would like to give you the following consideration: no doubt, there are advantages to using a Tracking & Tracing system within the prison. However, you should decide in advance what you want to achieve with it and how you want to use it.

Summary

The introduction is a brief description of two tracking & tracing experiments within prison facilities in the Netherlands.
The TRACE system developed by Elmotech is fitted in the buildings and on the terrain of Bankenbosch prison in Veenhuizen. Each detainee wears an anklet and can thus be localised.
In the Lelystad prison, Transquest and Geodan systems are being used. Again, detainees can be localised with it, but their bracelet also allows them to log in on an internal service system. This allows the inmates to take care of a lot of things independently, which previously required the intervention of staff members.