Axis goes to Brianza.

More than 350 Axis network cameras protect the environment
and provide security in the municipalities of the eastern Milan region.

Organization:
18 eastern Milanese
municipalities

Location:
Lombardia, Italy

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Surveillance of urban
areas and ecological
platforms

Axis partner:
CEM Ambiente S.p.A.

Mission

CEM Ambiente S.p.A. is the company responsible for managing the service of collecting, transporting and disposing of solid urban waste, including the province of Milan and 49 municipalities to the east of Milan, in a basin with more than 420,000 residents. The company's core business is based on the collection of waste with sorting and the related services of disposal and salvage of materials. In 2004 CEM Ambiente signaled the need to install cameras to monitor the waste collection areas, which are often subject to theft and acts of vandalism. In 2007, the need to protect residents against crime, and the optimal results achieved by CEM Ambiente, led the municipalities to decide to extend the installation of cameras throughout the territory; not just in the ecological platforms.

Solution

To meet the security demands of the municipalities, CEM Ambiente studied and implemented various video surveillance solutions designed on the basis of required specifications, and committed themselves to Axis as the supplier of network cameras.

Result

To date, more than 350 cameras have been installed, and the solution has proven itself to be fully satisfactory to all municipalities involved. In particular, a reduction in crime has been recorded thanks to the extremely sharp images captured by the cameras even in situations with limited visibility or difficult weather conditions.

AXIS
COMMUNICATIONS

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"The installation of a video surveillance system can constitute an effective deterrent against acts of vandalism, violence and theft that often occur in various public areas. In addition, the Axis cameras allow the identification of various violations of the highway code and, above all, allow intervention in the case of accidents at road intersections and at-risk areas."

Giancarlo Caprotti, Local Police Chief of the Municipality of Cassano D'Adda.

From the ecological platforms to the entire territory

The project was launched in Brugherio and was later expanded to Gorgonzola and 16 other municipalities (Basiano, Bellinzago, Bernareggio, Cassano d'Adda, Cassina dé Pecchi, Gessate, Liscate, Masate, Pantigliate, Pessano con Bornago, Pozzuolo Martesana, Rodano, Roncello, Truccazzano, Vaprio d'Adda, and Vignate).

The solution involved the creation of a 25 km-long wireless backbone to connect the different points in the territory, which permits the remote maintenance of the entire system and the resolution of possible anomalies. The 350 Axis network cameras were installed to monitor "sensitive" points such as squares, schools, public parking lots, and sports grounds, and to keep watch over the principal access roads to the municipalities, and were selected based on different requirements: indoor or outdoor locations, areas with dim lighting, and the need for remote control. "Some municipalities wanted to monitor access to particular areas subject to traffic restrictions: the use of cameras permitted the remote monitoring of the opening up of gaps and the monitoring of possible abuses of access and entries on the wrong side of the highway," stated Gianni Barzaghi, Information Systems Manager of CEM Ambiente.

The monitoring of the access routes to the territory allows the creation of a database of vehicle license plates used by law enforcement to meet any requirements relating to security and investigations. In relation to road safety, the placement of cameras at certain particularly dangerous intersections allowed the dynamics of accidents to be clarified, even in the absence of eye witnesses.

The cameras installed are of different types: for the first systems, AXIS 221 and AXIS 223M were selected as cameras for contexts where the day & night feature makes them capable of capturing high-quality images under all lighting conditions; as the observation cameras, AXIS 214 PTZ, AXIS 232D+ and AXIS 233D Network Dome Cameras were selected, the former because it offers PTZ features that can be managed remotely by operators using a mouse or joystick, and the latter because it permits the magnification of small and distant objects, such as license plates, which can be identified in real time to obtain a sharp and clear view even under difficult lighting conditions.

The monitoring and recording centers are spread around the police stations in the municipalities, while technical system supervision and maintenance is entrusted to CEM Ambiente; in this way, each municipality can independently monitor its own territory and use the system to intervene quickly in case of need, by delegating the management and maintenance activities to CEM Ambiente.

When introducing the new models, CEM Ambiente primarily installed AXIS Q1755 and AXIS P5534 Network Cameras with HDTV performance and H.264. "The use of H.264 allows the transmission of extremely high-quality video feeds occupying a greatly reduced bandwidth," explained Gabriele Carè, Project Manager of CEM Ambiente.

The desire to continue the expansion of the system is undoubtedly the best testimony to the satisfaction of the associated municipalities: besides being indispensable for intervening in case of need, the cameras installed in public areas also act as an effective deterrent against threats and aggressive behavior, theft and acts of vandalism.

"One of the many violations reported by the municipalities is the dumping of tires and other bulky materials outside of the ecological platforms. Thanks to the introduction of video surveillance in these areas, it was possible to control a problem that was having a severe impact on the environment," stated Gianni Barzaghi, Information Systems Manager of CEM Ambiente.