

Argentina's Ministry of Security partners with Axis to improve public safety in Buenos Aires.

To prevent crime and improve safety throughout the city, the Buenos Aires Safe City project installs 1,200 Axis cameras.



Organization:
Ministry of Security,
City of Buenos Aires

Location:
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Crime prevention, urban
safety and security

Mission

When the Argentine Ministry of Security was created in December 2010, President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner charged it with carrying out an evaluation of the operational and technological capacity of the country's four police and security forces to determine whether they were fully prepared to fulfill their missions and functions. This initial assessment indicated that the Argentine Federal Police needed to strengthen its capacities in several critical areas, one of which was video surveillance. Once these deficiencies had been brought to light, the new ministry moved forward with plans to correct them.

Solution

In March 2011, the Ministry launched the "Buenos Aires Safe City" project (popularly known by its Spanish acronym BACS), the most significant effort ever undertaken to update the technological capacities of the Argentine Federal Police and an initiative that has made the force one of the most technologically advanced metropolitan law enforcement units anywhere in the world.

Result

Since the first monitoring center entered into service (M4, Constitución), the video surveillance cameras installed through the BACS project have detected 1,914 relevant events.

"We can truly say that the Axis cameras installed have successfully fulfilled project expectations in terms of both product quality and the high definition of the images they deliver."

Jorge Fernandez, Argentine Police Force.

Buenos Aires Safe City Project ("BACS")

With an investment of approximately 250 million pesos in high-tech equipment to date, the BACS project constitutes the most significant technology modernization initiative ever undertaken in the history of the Argentine Federal Police and has placed the force among the most advanced metropolitan law enforcement units in the world. During its first phase (2011-2012), the project implemented:

- > 1 Command and Control Center
- > 1,200 high-definition Axis IP cameras for video surveillance
- > 5 regional monitoring centers
- > 1 Unified Federal Rapid Response Center
- > 500 km of fiber optics in the autonomous city of Buenos Aires

The project involved the creation of a wireless network that operated on a frequency exclusively dedicated to communications between mobile public safety units such as patrol cars and a central command and control center. The establishment of the command and control center C4 made it possible to integrate and optimize both new and existing systems that had previously operated in isolation. The centralization and coordination of these resources has greatly increased the force's situational awareness and optimized its decision-making processes.

A city monitored with state-of-the-art technology

The system chosen by the Ministry of Security called for 1,200 high-definition Axis cameras (AXIS P1346-E and AXIS P5534-E). The current network covers a number of locations throughout the city, where four cameras, three of which are fixed cameras (AXIS P1346-E) and one of which is a dome camera (AXIS P5534-E) have been installed. The fixed cameras provide continuous 360-degree video coverage and the dome camera facilitates on-demand view whenever required. This equipment was installed at sites throughout the city that register high levels of criminal activity.

The images produced by this system can be viewed at both the regional monitoring centers and the C4. These images are essential for real-time prevention and detection of crime and incidents or a conspiracy to commit a crime, and can be used as evidence in court. They are also critical for improving the safety of city residents by providing a record of images and patrol routes.

Images taken by the IP cameras installed in the trucks and helicopters used by the Argentine Federal Police (aerial cameras are infrared) are transmitted via satellite to the C4, which also receives images captured by cameras installed in soccer stadiums.

Train and bus stations are also monitored by Axis network cameras through the Ministry of Security's "Train Alert" program, which was initiated in September 2011 and has involved the installation of 120 high-definition IP cameras on the platforms of railway terminal stations and city buses (Retiro and Liniers).

Future benefits

In view of the positive results achieved by the implementation of an advanced video surveillance system in metropolitan Buenos Aires, President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has agreed to expand the Argentine Federal Police department's video surveillance system to other neighborhoods in the city as well. There are also plans to expand the Federal Fiber Optic Network, which will improve the communications infrastructure of state agencies.

