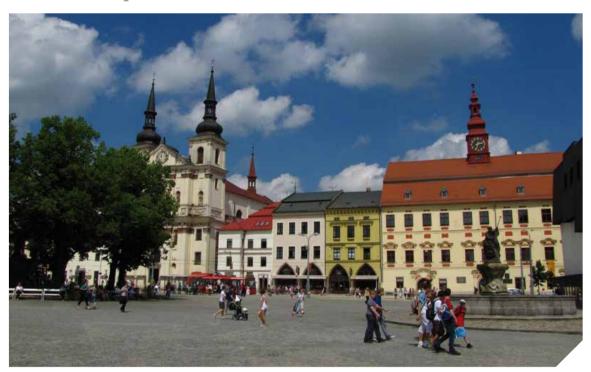# Axis cameras help create a transparent and safer city.

Instant and tangible results with unified network camera system in the city of Jihlava.

Organization:
Statutory City of Jihlava

Location:
Czech Republic

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Crime prevention

Axis partners:
IPSECURITY s.r.o.,
Autocont CZ a.s., ATEAS

Mission

Following the successful experience with the first network camera installed in a playground, the city of Jihlava decided to complete the transition to a modern IP-based video surveillance system. This mission has brought new challenges and new opportunities: simplifying the use of the system, ensuring seamless compatibility of the cameras within a single video management software (VMS) and applicability of images taken in dim light conditions, as well as ensuring the possibility of data compression while maintaining image quality.

Solution

The winning tender for the supply of a single city camera system, announced by the IT Department in cooperation with city police in 2012, was a design solution using Ateas Security VMS software and Axis IP cameras meeting the above requirements.

The most widely represented model in Jihlava's system is the AXIS Q6034 Network Camera, which in addition to the Ateas Security native support and H.264 codec, delivered superior light characteristics.

Result

The transition to a modern IP camera system has several benefits. One of them was a significant simplification of the overall system administration. Installing new camera points, data transmission, storage and sharing of videos is now much easier. AXIS Q6034 provide high resolution and the ability to operate in extreme lighting conditions. Many criminal cases and law violations have already been solved thanks to the surveillance system. Other frequently used features of the cameras include a private masking software function that makes it possible to meet the strict personal data protection requirements.

AXIS
COMMUNICATIONS

> "Unifying the IP-based camera system ensured a higher level of security in the city and prepared the ground for future development. Axis cameras served as a solid foundation for this purpose."
>
> Bc. Stanislav Maštera, the deputy director of the Municipal Police in Jihlava.

From playground cameras to modern municipal surveillance

The first experience of Jihlava with a camera system dates back to 1998. At that time, the city police used several analog cameras and VHS recording, but the entire system had many limitations. The first IP cameras were installed in 2010, when the Department of Informatics in collaboration with the city police announced a tender procedure for video surveillance of a newly developed urban playground. The winning tender provided the installation of an AXIS Q6032 Network Camera, which was carried out using the metropolitan network and AXIS Camera Station software. The PTZ camera was able to cover the entire area of the playground and to deal with the dynamically changing lighting conditions or requirements by the city of Jihlava on personal data protection of their inhabitants, insisted that the camera did not pick up the windows of the neighboring houses. This requirement was met with the help of an intelligent camera function called private masking, which allows the masking of faces in the image that the user wants to monitor. Intelligent features allow this camera to change viewing angles while keeping the pre-defined masked areas.

In subsequent years, new AXIS Q6034 Network Cameras were added which had higher resolution and better light properties in night mode. There was a moment in the development period when there were three incompatible camera systems and cameras (both digital and analog) with different characteristics. That compelled the statutory city of Jihlava to start thinking about setting up fixed rules and unification under a single camera system. After considering all the technological and financial pros and cons, the choice fell on the Ateas Security software. This step led to a requirement that all cameras bought from this point on are natively compatible with this system and support recording with the H.264 codec. The main process of replacing obsolete analogue and other nonconforming cameras started in 2012.

Today the city police in Jihlava uses a wide portfolio of Axis cameras for a whole range of different uses. The surveillance system incorporates a total of 64 cameras including the AXIS Q6000-E and AXIS Q6044 models, the above mentioned AXIS Q6034 model, which with 14 devices is one of the most regularly installed IP cameras in Jihlava. Other models include AXIS Q6032, AXIS P7024, AXIS P3364, AXIS P1357 AXIS P1354, AXIS M7014, among others.

These cameras help solve crimes and save lives

The results of this upgrade did not take long to prove themselves useful, and have been helpful in particular cases. The city police admitted usage by criminal police of the camera records when investigating at least two serious criminal cases with the footage published in the media and in several cases, the cameras detected a collapse in the street caused by health issues. One of the most serious cases that the high-resolution cameras have helped to solve is a murder.

Future plans

The city of Jihlava already has great plans for its highly advanced camera system technology. One of the yet unrealised dreams is to build a central security panel, on which all cameras of participating organizations would be connected, and which would play an important role in dealing with unexpected situations. Last year's purchase of the Unlimited version of the Ateas Security software proved very far-sighted in this regard. That allowed the statutory city of Jihlava to provide its license to the Jihlava Transport Company which, at the same time, came up with the request to build its own camera system with license plate recognition.