Improving quality of life in Leon with Axis.

Innovative industrial city in Mexico launches intelligent surveillance and monitoring center.

Organization:
Public Security Ministry of the City of Leon, Guanajuato

Location:
León, Guanajuato, Mexico

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Law enforcement, public security

Mission

Leon is a large city of 1.4 million people in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato. Because of security risks and a lack of personnel to cover high-crime locations, the municipal government installed analog cameras to serve as a force multiplier. However, the analog cameras were exposed to vandalism in the streets and often suffered external damage. Furthermore, the current system was not scalable and prone to failure. Leon officials decided to modernize the surveillance system to better meet their needs.

Solution

With a 50 million pesos investment, the Municipality of Leon replaced its analog cameras with state-of-the-art Axis IP cameras throughout the city and suburbs. They determined camera locations by mapping emergency calls made to the police and selected a mix of Axis fixed dome and pan/tilt/zoom (PTZ) network cameras. Axis was chosen because of its reliability, vandal-resistant enclosures and image quality even in low light.

With an IP-based solution, the municipal government can expand the network as they see fit.

Result

By selecting IP-based network cameras, the municipality was able to expand their surveillance network beyond what the previous system would support. AXIS Camera Companion also helped reduce the previous equipment failure issues and made system maintenance easier. In recent months, the system captured a wide variety of incidents on video that could have otherwise gone unnoticed ranging from administrative infringements to assaults. The evidence has helped the municipality resolve these incidents and increase the quality of life for its residents.

AXIS
COMMUNICATIONS

> "We first used the Axis IP video system to record video in hard-to-access sites that required constant surveillance. However, in the case of the urban surveillance, we had only used analog systems that never worked 100 percent well. When we realized the IP video systems worked for the same period of time without any problem, the decision to switch was obvious."
>
> Noé Felipe Herrera Saldaña, Leon C4, Telecommunications and Security Coordinator.

History

As a municipality, Leon wanted to make the best use of public resources, which meant finding the most effective video surveillance solution. The decision to select Axis cameras was based on their ability to provide the high resolution video quality necessary for city surveillance. Additionally, as some areas of the city can be dangerous and may not have much illumination at night, the municipality needed cameras that could provide detailed coverage in low light conditions. In the case of the municipal buildings, officials needed to identify the faces of the people who have access to the buildings, as well as monitor the activities in the armories. Above all, the long lifecycles of Axis cameras provided the best cost-benefit ratio.

Installation

In the past, meeting the city's security needs would have required sizable expenditures, including hiring a large number of operating staff and police units. Today, the IP camera solution provides much-needed eyes on the street without increasing staff.

To determine the best locations for the cameras, the city mapped calls from residents to the municipality's 066 emergency care system. The majority of the 96 cameras installed were the outdoor rated AXIS Q6032-E PTZ Dome Network Camera with 36x optical zoom. They also selected the very discreet, vandal-resistant AXIS M32 Series Fixed Dome Camera with motion detection and tamper-proofing.

Furthermore, AXIS P1346 Network Cameras with HDTV resolution, automatic day/night functionality and P-Iris control provides the municipality with clear video in various lighting conditions. Finally, they installed the water and dust resistant AXIS P5532 PTZ Dome Network Camera with 29x optical zoom that provides superior image quality even in low light conditions.

All the cameras are monitored by operators located in the C4 Command Center, but they can also be monitored remotely from other buildings of the Public Security Ministry.

Consistency, effectiveness and savings

Overall, the cameras have helped traffic agents and police investigate incidents and prevent crimes including assaults, kidnappings, traffic accidents and inappropriate behavior by authorities. The video has also helped improve traffic by capturing traffic lights failures and accidents that affect traffic flow.

Furthermore, productivity has increased thanks to a reduction in response times for emergency personnel. The system also led to a reduction in maintenance costs, as the switch to a digital video surveillance system eliminated failures reported in the previous analog system. Additionally, the cameras are easy to install, so the municipality can quickly relocate them to make the system more dynamic.

The Axis system has proven to be a reliable tool for increasing security in the municipality. The clear, sharp images give officials the ability to analyze events more efficiently than with other technologies used in the past. Additionally, the equipment has kept working even under extreme conditions after 8 years of use, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Upon completion of the project, the camera system helped optimize the municipality's investment in improving law enforcement efforts, and they were able to meet their commitment to the citizens of Leon, who demanded effective and positive change in public safety.

AXIS
COMMUNICATIONS