Coniolo Municipality is safe with Axis cameras.

Thanks to IP camera technology, Axis and Lan Service solution allows Coniolo Municipality to increase security in its municipal area and for its residents.

Organization:
Coniolo Municipality

Location:
Piemonte, Italy

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Urban surveillance, access control

Axis partner:
Lan Service

Mission

Coniolo, a municipality of Monferrato, located in the Piedmont hills and with UNESCO World Heritage status, has registered an ever-increasing rise in home burglaries over the last few years, a situation that had generated a climate of fear and insecurity in the community. However, small to medium-sized villages such as Coniolo have two advantages: a stranger is quickly noticed and the village has only a few access roads that people with malicious intent would have to take. The main requirement was being able to identify all cars entering and leaving the village.

Solution

The solution implemented by Coniolo municipality consists of four roadside access-control checkpoints, equipped with high-performance Axis cameras for context and reading license plates, with additional illuminators, remote control, remote access via UMTS/ HyperLan and WiFi connection for local access.

An alarm system, connected to Lan Service's NOC (Network Operative Center), is also implemented at each checkpoint, allowing operation of the systems and any ongoing problems to be monitored in real time.

Result

The system has enabled the successful identification of numerous license plates belonging to suspect vehicles, making it easier for the police to carry out their investigations. The quality of the images and the practicality of the software for zooming and per-frame analysis render these systems extremely usable, allowing Coniolo Municipality to increase security significantly for its residents.

AXIS COMMUNICATIONS

> "Thanks to the village's new video surveillance system, it is now possible to accurately identify the license plates of all cars travelling through the village. This has enabled us to provide the police with useful information for carrying out investigations in the event of theft."
>
> Vincenzo Amich, Mayor of Coniolo.

Axis and Lan Service together for the safety of Coniolo

Coniolo Municipality is famous in Piedmont for its superb location, including its panoramic view of the Monferrato hills, and for its many tourist initiatives. However, from a security standpoint, the Municipal Administration had to face increasingly frequent cases of home burglaries, a phenomenon that had generated a climate of fear and insecurity in the community.

By now, trends in these thefts had been ascertained: the thieves normally worked in pairs, arriving by car, and left the scene undisturbed after the burglary. If on one hand, the particular layout of the village makes this kind of crime easier, on the other, it can be advantageous for law enforcement agencies because there are only a few access roads that the thieves must necessarily travel on, enabling their identification with the right technology. By leveraging this characteristic, the municipality has chosen to use an accurate video surveillance system capable of identifying all the vehicles entering and leaving the village.

The Axis and Lan Service solution consists of creating four roadside checkpoints for access control, which allow identifying both the type of vehicle and other details, such as the license plate for example, and recording the transit of vehicles on the roads entering the village, even in adverse weather conditions or situations of poor light or total dark.

The systems operates in a decentralized manner: each checkpoint is equipped with a UMTS router with integrated SIM and DDNS to enable the system to be accessed over the Internet and to allow sending alarm and alert emails. Each access checkpoint is equipped with a pair of cameras that record to an onboard SD card, an AXIS M3024-LVE for context and an AXIS Q1604-E for reading license plates. The system is equipped with additional high-power IR illuminators and an SMS remote control that allows remote switching off and on in the event of problems.

"The use of AXIS Q Series cameras," commented Riccardo Novarese, Senior Network Engineer at Lan Service, "has enabled excellent results in license plate reading, thanks to the advanced WDR that allows instantaneous rebalancing of the camera's parameters after changes in external conditions (glare, backlight, etc.) and Full HDTV performance, capable of providing 25fps video at 1MP."

The initial installation was followed by a series of fine-tuning operations on the systems, which currently allow reading the front and rear license plates of vehicles even in adverse conditions, such as darkness, headlight glare and high speed, and the complete identification of the vehicle regarding make, model and color.

With AXIS Companion software, the cameras allow remote and mobile access to the system. All alarms and alerts, both from the cameras and from the rest of the system, are forwarded to Lan Service's NOC (Network Operative Center) for proactively monitoring the checkpoints. Given the results, the municipality plans to extend the video surveillance system to other areas of the village, to protect public property from vandalism, another scourge that Coniolo has decided to combat with systems developed by Lan Service.

"Being able to count on the technological quality of Axis, for which Lan Service is an authorized partner, has enabled achieving results of the highest quality in these systems, much better than those achievable with traditional cameras," says Riccardo Novarese, Senior Network Engineer at Lan Service.