The Municipal Museum of The Hague chooses cost-effective security with Axis network cameras.

Analog and IP cameras are integrated via a centrally controlled video system.

Organization:
Municipal Museum of
The Hague

Location:
The Hague, Netherlands

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Safety and security

Axis partners:
Videotronic Infosystems
Nederland, Fensis

Mission

The Municipal Museum of The Hague wanted to bring its building and surroundings together more effectively. The fragmented environment with its partial camera and monitor systems and limited storage capacity had to be modernized. To keep its investments to a minimum, the museum wanted to connect the traditional cameras it already had to an IP network and integrate them in a central IP-based video system. The renovated central video system also had to be connected to the security management system.

Solution

Together with Axis partner, Videotronic, and its installation partner, Fensis, the Municipal Museum designed and implemented a centrally operated video system. In the new environment, all the existing cameras were equipped with AXIS Q7406 Video Encoders that support the conversion to TCI/IP. A number of new AXIS P3343 and AXIS P1343 Network Cameras with PoE were also installed.

All the cameras are coupled to CamIQ servers via the network for efficient and central image storage. In addition, the emergency control center has been modernized and equipped with a new video wall with six 42" monitors.

Result

With the new surveillance system, the Municipal Museum of The Hague has a fully integrated video system at its disposal that provides a good overview of the building and the surrounding public area. All images are transmitted to the CamIQ servers via the IP network and stored. Images can be followed in real-time on the video wall, and configured in a flexible way. Images can also be quickly called up and combined in the event of an incident. With this new environment, the museum has at its disposal a flexible and scalable video system, which will make it possible to quickly implement future developments or extensions.

AXIS
COMMUNICATIONS

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"With 500,000 visitors per year, the Municipal Museum of The Hague is one of the 5 most frequently visited museums. We want to guarantee the safety of these people as much as possible."

Karel Kolk, Head of Building and Installations, Municipal Museum of The Hague.

The Municipal Museum of The Hague is a museum for modern art, crafts, fashion and musical instruments. The museum is located in a unique building that was designed by the famous Dutch architect, Berlage. Over the years the museum has organized major exhibitions that have drawn large numbers of visitors.

To secure the building and the surrounding public area, the museum originally used 64 analog security cameras. This system was extended in an ad hoc way in recent years with a number of separate systems. This led to a fragmented environment with different systems. In the emergency control center, the images were followed on a collection of different monitors. But there was no total overview and images were only stored for a limited time. When incidents occurred, employees had to find the available images manually. Finally, the cameras were not integrated with other security systems such as fire alarms.

The choice to implement a central security management system provided the museum with an opportunity to really modernize the video system. Karel Kolk, Head of Building and Installations, states: "We wanted a central video system that we could connect to the new security system. In this way we were able to further optimize security. Security requirements in the museum world are increasing all the time. In addition, we wanted to be ready for extensions to our own system and to nearby buildings of the Museum and the Photo Museum. In order to realize this, it was necessary to improve the flexibility and scalability of the system. An important requirement was that we wanted to continue to use previous investments. The cameras we were using at the time still worked well, so we wanted to connect them to our IP network too. This enabled us to minimize costs."

Smart combination

Kolk says "Together with Videotronic and Fensis, we were successful in bringing our video environment to a whole new level while limiting costs. We equipped the existing cameras with a video encoder and connected them to the surveillance system."

"This smart combination of existing equipment and new IP-based solutions provides our organization with several advantages. All images are now stored in high definition on efficient storage equipment. We have enough storage capacity to be able to expand if necessary. In the event of an incident, the images can be found and viewed quickly. By connecting the CamIQ system to the central security system it is also possible, for example, to see the area of the fire alarm immediately with the cameras."

Video wall

Parallel to renovating the system, the museum also modernized the emergency control center. "Previously, the images were shown on different monitors, some with quadrant distribution" Kolk says. "Since the system has grown over time, it was not always easy for security personnel to maintain an overview. Also, switching between the different cameras was only possible to a limited extent. In addition, the traditional CRT screens took up a lot of physical space. Security personnel can now call up the image from a specific camera and organize the screens flexibly, for example, to monitor a specific area. It is now also possible to arrange the video wall on the basis of groups of cameras, for instance for the day and the night. These are all practical advantages that make security easier."

The museum has already expanded the original system with new IP cameras from Axis. At present, security can keep track of the building and surroundings with 108 cameras. Kolk states, "With 500,000 visitors per year, the Municipal Museum of The Hague is one of the 5 most frequently visited museums. We want to guarantee the safety of these people as much as possible." Meanwhile we also want to protect our building and the collections as much as possible. With the new video system that we have developed together with Videotronic and Fensis, we can view images from all the cameras from our central emergency control center. With our smart mixture of existing and new technologies, we have a scaleable and future-proof video system. And we managed this with minimal investment."