CASE STUDY

Axis products make Eslöv safer.

New technique saves money and increases safety.

Organization:
Eslöv Municipality

Location:
Eslöv, Sweden

Industry segment:
Government

Application:
Safety and security, crime prevention

Axis partner:
ComTech Group

Mission

The Municipality of Eslöv in Skåne has had problems with arson since 2008. To handle and rebuild burnt down buildings has to date cost the Municipality roughly 100 million kronor. The Municipality estimates that all together 4,500 square meters of property have been destroyed, among others, a school, a sports center and a kindergarten. An acute demand for action ensued within the municipality, aiming at preventing such destruction in the future. The Municipality had permission to monitor only 2 meters from the front of the properties, so conventional surveillance cameras were not an alternative.

Solution

The need of the Municipality of Eslöv was to prevent such incidents happening and to make fast intervention possible. Identification was not a primary need; the objective was preventive detection. The Municipality therefore contacted Axis partner ComTech Group that chose AXIS Q1910-E Thermal Network Camera with a direct connection to an emergency service center. In this case, the camera works as a thermal sensor.

With the help of this overall solution, the Municipality may easily monitor places that are particularly at risk, without exposing the identity of the persons. There are a total of 23 cameras placed on seven buildings in the Municipality.

Result

The investment is part of the closer surveillance that the Municipality of Eslöv has invested in to stop the arson. It is also possible that other vandalism can be prevented by the knowledge of the thermal sensors. The system is being installed as a measure of prevention and to hopefully detect problems at an early stage. If the investment produces the intended result, the Municipality of Eslöv will successively increase the surveillance using, among other things, thermal sensors.

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"We have lost enough; many important buildings in Eslöv have been burned to the ground. Norrevångshallen, where the majority of the local sports clubs were housed, was a hard blow. Calculations have shown that 1,500 persons were affected by the incident, as quickly as the next day. The pressure to act increased after this incident. We hope that the monitoring efforts will help us to manage the problems and to create a more secure environment for our residents. We consider the project to be an investment for the future."

Lars Andersson, Property Manager, service and technology, in the Municipality of Eslöv.

Thermal sensors as a preventive measure

The thermal sensors are switched on at all times, and there is readiness during evenings, holidays and nights. The technique is being used in real-time, which is why the Municipality of Eslöv has no need to store any recordings. The thermal sensors are connected to an emergency center that receives indications of when many people move or are present in a monitored location. In many locations the vegetation has been reduced in order to enhance visibility and to make monitoring of the area easier. Through a loudspeaker, mounted in connection to the Axis camera, the personnel at the emergency center can inform persons in question that they are being monitored. When necessary, the emergency center will send a guard to the location to speak to the persons that are present there.

The security guard company will act preventively. With the help of the system, potential problems are detected at an early stage, and fast action can be taken. It is also to the advantage of the guard, because the camera exposes what is going on first, and the guard can be prepared for what is happening. When the guard reaches the location, he or she is also closely monitored, which contributes to the security at work.

Advanced technique for demanding environments

The Municipality of Eslöv uses 23 thermal sensors, distributed over 7 locations. AXIS Q1910-E is the first network-based thermal camera in the world and it can detect persons at a distance of up to 200 meters and vehicles at up to 550 meters. The model has both a sabotage alarm as well as a movement detection function. The camera works extremely well in demanding conditions, such as darkness, mist and smoke. The model is not affected by laser beams or bright light. AXIS Q1910-E is adapted to tough weather conditions, and for round-the-clock use. Due to these characteristics, the camera is well suited for all kinds of outdoor surveillance.

"The installation with network based thermal sensors saves time and money, as it is possible to simultaneously monitor several objects. The Municipality of Eslöv has a large area to cover, which would be very costly with a conventional camera technique. It was not by chance that we chose the Axis thermal camera; it could offer the most cost-effective solution for our needs," Hans-Erik Jönsson, fire engineer in the Municipality of Eslöv, says.

The AXIS Q1910-E Thermal Network Camera supports ONVIF (Open Network Video Interface Forum), which makes it compatible with other network video products. The model also supports H.264 video compression. It allows for a smaller bandwidth, which in turn reduces the need for storage by 80%. However, the Municipality of Eslöv does not use this functionality as the monitoring is done in real-time.

'Ear to the ground'

In order to further increase security the Municipality of Eslöv has recently initiated a cooperation project called 'Ear to the ground'. The project is inspired by an effort that has previously been used in the Rosengård district in Malmö. The Municipality considers that the effort has worked well, even if the situation in Eslöv is, in many ways, different.

The aim of the project is to create long-term a more secure environment in Eslöv. The Municipality meets with, among others, the rescue service, the social service, security companies and the police, once a week to discuss the situation and to exchange experiences. After the meetings resources are allotted according to existing needs. So far the response from the participants in the project has been very positive. In addition to this project, the Municipality of Eslöv has a very good relationship with local industry with the aim to create security. The work has resulted in shorter reaction times in the handling of crises in the Municipality. Previously, measures could have been delayed for several weeks, and in some occasions even for months. Today, incidents are checked and processed within a week from when they happened.

"We already feel that the project has had an effect in the Municipality. The autumn vacation was the first in many years when there were no incidents caused by youth gangs in the Municipality," says Hans-Erik Jönsson, Fire Engineer in the Municipality of Eslöv.

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