

Bespoke surveillance system from Axis provides safety reassurance.

Careers and support services organisation provides secure environment for staff and visitors.



Organization:

Positive Steps

Location:

Oldham, UK

Application:

Safety and security

Axis partners:

NW Systems Group,
Milestone

Mission

When not-for-profit organisation Positive Steps moved to new premises in Oldham town centre, they faced a number of challenges updating the old 1970s building.

The organisation inherited an analogue CCTV system which was becoming increasingly unreliable and was purely used retrospectively following any incident. After a number of years working with the 15-year-old surveillance system, it was clear that an improved set-up needed to be considered in order to enhance the environment for both staff and the general public using the facility.

Solution

After some research into the surveillance market, Positive Steps identified Axis Communications as its preferred supplier. Locally-based Axis-recommended partner, NW Systems Group, was approached to provide its expert opinion on what improvements could be made.

The solution comprised 14 Axis cameras. Internally, the discreet AXIS M32 Network Camera provides excellent image quality, powered over Ethernet. While externally, AXIS P3364-LVE and AXIS P1354-E Network Cameras ensure high performance and are vandal resistant. All the outdoor cameras feature Axis' innovative Lightfinder technology, giving them extreme light sensitivity.

Result

The system, specified and installed by NW Systems, has provided Positive Steps with a reliable, high-quality, advanced surveillance system that can be accessed and monitored 24x7 both on and off-site. It provides all the staff at this public-facing organisation with a safe and secure environment for their team and the customers using the on-site services.

“When I was first shown the Lightfinder technology it was mind-blowing. The images are amazing – light years ahead of our previous system.”

Paul Wooding, information systems manager, Positive Steps.

Working within budgetary constraints

Based in Oldham, Greater Manchester, Positive Steps is a not-for-profit organisation providing a range of targeted and integrated services to young people and adults in the North West of England. Promoting education-related local government services, its overall aim is to get the people of Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside on the right track to fulfil their potential within education and working environments.

The business moved into previous commercial premises dating back to the 1970s in Oldham town centre. On becoming tenants, the organisation inherited the residual infrastructure of the building which included the old analogue CCTV system which was primarily used to monitor the building's perimeter.

Positive Steps' information management team worked with Axis partner, NW Systems Group, to specify and design the best and most suitable solution, whilst keeping in mind the budgetary constraints of a not-for-profit organisation. A number of different options were costed and presented; repairing the existing system, the creation of a hybrid solution, or a complete replacement.

Upon analysis, it was agreed that an overall replacement of the system would be the most effective and in the long term, the better investment. NW Systems specified and designed an integrated solution that provided Positive Steps with a straightforward way to manage video surveillance over its existing data network whilst providing excellent quality HDTV images.

Safety is paramount

Due to the nature of organisation, the security of the building itself was extremely important, as it can often house varying amounts of client-sensitive data. The safety of both the employees and the general public was also paramount.

Paul Wooding, information systems manager at Positive Steps, said: “We work in what can be a challenging environment so we really needed an effective surveillance system that could provide us with more coverage across the site, both internally and externally. We were conscious that our employees and the general public needed to be further reassured that their safety was a priority.”

A new, easy access solution

As the previous surveillance system was originally designed for an office environment, with significantly fewer members of the general public entering through its doors, there were just a few internal cameras in the larger reception areas with the external cameras proving to be prone to blind spots. Both areas were not actively monitored and when data was required it was often too difficult to locate and download.

In contrast, with the new Axis-based system, the team can now access images in a much more straightforward way and the HDTV quality of these images means that recognition of those involved in an incident is more likely.

High performance in a challenging environment

Axis cameras provide quality surveillance both inside and outside the building. The cameras' in-built intelligent movement recording ensures that the server is not overloaded with continual footage. The cameras only record when they detect movement which has a significant energy-saving benefit.

Axis' innovative Lightfinder technology, also means that any incidents that may happen outside of working hours, both internally and externally are much more likely to be accurately recorded and therefore, can be used for further investigations. The system also has the ability to continually operate during any power outage. Paul added: “When I was first shown the Lightfinder technology it was mind-blowing. The images are amazing – light years ahead of our previous system.”



“We regularly recommend Axis cameras to customers as we can be confident of both the quality of the images and their reliability. We have developed a strong relationship with Axis and we find the support excellent during and after installations. They understand that every installation is different so will do everything to help us to develop bespoke solutions for our clients.” Keith Bardsley, sales manager at NW Systems Group.

