Technology institute resolves emergency and builds safe campus with Axis.

Superior Institute of Technology Champotón uses Axis network cameras to counter destructive protests and support greater campus safety and security.

Organization:
Superior Institute of Technology Champotón

Location:
Champoton, Campeche, Mexico

Industry segment:
Education

Application:
Safety and security

Axis partner:
MMC, ISS

Mission

Because of controversy over the acquisition of land to build the Superior Institute of Technology Champotón (ITESCHAM) in Campeche, Mexico, administrators were facing violent protests by area residents against the project. During construction, protestors stole equipment, damaged the facilities and threated students and staff. Ongoing threats sparked the search for technology to secure the campus inside and out.

Solution

Initially, the school installed four high performance Axis network cameras with day/night functionality and motion detection to deter vandalism, theft and confrontations. They strategically placed the cameras at the outer corners of campus to monitor the perimeter and ensure any incidents were recorded. With assistance from MMC, a systems integrator and Axis partner, the school gradually expanded surveillance throughout the campus to include all exterior areas, hallways, administrative offices, computer labs and more.

A total of 43 Axis network cameras are currently deployed, and the college manages the system with an ISS SecureOS Professional Video Management System (VMS).

Result

A few days after installing the cameras, video footage documented a group of protestors at the very moment they destroyed the fence surrounding the campus. With this evidence, the institute was able to identify the perpetrators and stop any further destruction by the protestors. Expanding surveillance throughout campus helped the campus security drastically reduce incidents of violence, vandalism and theft. The Axis cameras also assisted the school in the recovering 90% of the items students have reported lost or misplaced.

AXIS
COMMUNICATIONS

> "The Axis cameras have high image quality and cutting-edge technological innovations. Their consistent performance allows us to grow as an institution that is committed to excellence on par with other leading institutions in this country. Axis cameras are highly efficient and long-lasting. It has been years since we installed the first four cameras, and they continue to function well."

Eumir Antonio Novelo Cú, Head of Center for Computing and Information Technology.

Solving a crisis with surveillance

The Superior Institute of Technology Champotón—a higher education institute located in the state of Campeche—has faced security challenges since its inception. Because of a controversial transfer of land, the construction of the school in 2007 was met with violent protests. Locals tried to stop the project by stealing equipment, damaging facilities and demonstrating with machetes, sticks and stones. They also tried to drive away students and staff with threats.

To fight back, the school installed four cameras from the AXIS Q16 Series along the perimeter of the site. Shortly after the cameras were installed, they recorded a group of protestors tearing down a fence. The footage was used as evidence against the protestors, and the violence and vandalism was stopped.

As the school began to grow, its administration wanted to expand their surveillance system to ensure the school remained a safe and secure environment. Based on their experience with the protestors, they selected an array of Axis network cameras to monitor the interior and exterior of campus 24/7.

Expanding surveillance success across campus

Axis cameras were installed throughout school grounds, including in hallways, classrooms, computer centers, offices and more. For the interiors, ITESCHAM selected the compact AXIS M30 Network Camera Series with HDTV-quality video and wide-angle lenses for maximum coverage. The school placed the cameras in "Corridor Format" (9:16 vertical aspect ratio as opposed to the traditional 16:9 horizontal aspect ratio), to capture full vertical views of hallways while minimizing wasted space in the frame.

Elsewhere the school installed the cost-effective AXIS M10 Network Camera Series, which offers intelligent surveillance in a compact package. AXIS M1034-W Network Camera features intruder alarm capabilities with a PIR sensor that triggers an on-board LED when motion is detected.

Outside, they installed affordable cameras from the AXIS P55 Series that feature a 12x optical zoom and a 360° pan with an Auto-flip feature that automatically reverses the pan direction whenever the camera reaches the mechanical stop.

The cameras are controlled with the innovative ISS SecureOS Professional VMS. This software provides a single interface with law enforcement-grade intelligence and precision.

Reducing theft and increasing safety

Because the IP-based surveillance system makes remote video reviewing easier, the school has been able to greatly increase its response time to incidents. This has allowed them to reduce theft of school property and damage to their facilities almost to zero. Furthermore, the school estimates that they have been able to recover 90% of lost or misplaced items such as laptops, cameras and cell phones. The cameras also help ensure that the expensive audiovisual equipment in classrooms is secure.

To build on this success, ITESCHAM is exploring adding analytics to their surveillance toolbox. The security team would like to enhance cameras at campus entrances with license plate recognition functionality to compare plates with their database of vehicle registrations. This way they can determine if a vehicle is authorized to access their facility and whether it belongs to faculty, staff or a student.

With the sharp drop in campus violence, theft and vandalism and an increase in safety and security, the school can now focus the bulk of its attention on its primary objective: education.

AXIS
COMMUNICATIONS