

# HDTV camera unlocks panorama of beautiful historic Czech square.

Axis IP cameras help support tourism in České Budějovice.



**Organization:**  
Statutory City of České  
Budějovice

**Location:**  
Czech Republic

**Industry segment:**  
Hotel/Tourism/Restaurant

**Application:**  
Broadcasting

**Axis partner:**  
Arakis Et Belleville s.r.o.

## Mission

The upgrade project of the information website for the Statutory City of České Budějovice also included a camera system. The task was to enhance image quality and, primarily, keep rules of installation of any items in the historic part of the city which are subject to strict regulations of preservation specialists. The project target is to support tourism in České Budějovice using image projection in HDTV quality from the historic center directly to the information website of the city and make advanced possibilities of the network video accessible to the public.

## Solution

While solving this problem, Arakis Et Belleville s.r.o. realized the current technological solution was obsolete and a brand new AXIS P3367-VE Network Camera was proposed to be placed to the town hall tower. This, the first HDTV camera in České Budějovice, displays the Přemysl Otakar II Square and the image is in turn transferred to the city information website.

Arakis Et Belleville s.r.o. staff managed to place the camera in such a way that it can't be spotted by people and, thus it follows the strict rules of installation in the historic part of the city. During the installation, a special technical solution was designed, in particular, a custom bracket with fixture had to be manufactured.

## Result

Realization of the project was assumed by Arakis Et Belleville s.r.o. which, due to the current unsatisfactory technology, proposed to install advanced network video technology. The appropriate solution to meet this request was to install AXIS P3367-VE Network Cameras in the town hall tower. This first HD camera in České Budějovice displays the Přemysl Otakar II Square and the HD image is in turn transferred to the city information website where visitors can view it in their browser right on the homepage and see the South Bohemian landmark 24/7.

**“It was a very pleasant surprise to see the difference in the quality of the new installed HDTV camera, both the image quality improvement and possibilities of its subsequent processing.”**

**Ing. Václav Binder, the deputy director of the IT dept. of the České Budějovice Municipality.**

### From the obsolete camera to sharp focused square panoramas overnight

The first idea was to upgrade the information website on the occasion of the upcoming 750th anniversary of the King's (now Statutory) City which was founded by King Přemysl Otakar II in 1265. One of the website outputs was a broadcast from three web cameras shooting the historic heart of the city at a 360 degree angle from the respectable height of the preserved Black Tower and two cameras located on the top of the Financial Management building and one town hall camera, which provided a direct view of the historic square.

As the upgrade took place about the same time that the original digital camera in the town hall tower, which had served there for almost 14 years, became worn out, it was necessary to replace the old camera with a more suitable one. Formerly, an AXIS 213 PTZ Network Camera with its own protective case for outdoor usage, which enabled all-year round camera operation, was located in the tower. Using the same design for the building protected by law would bring several technical problems during installation and a limited camera angle of view. Meanwhile, Axis launched new cameras of the fixed exterior dome type where there's no need to install an extra case for outdoor usage and the angle of view is much wider.

After expert consultation with Arakis & Belleville s.r.o., the AXIS P3367-VE Network Camera became the final choice. This camera, together with HDTV quality of the transferred video, superb light sensitivity and wide angle of view, provides a live panorama image of the Přemysl Otakar II Square night and day.

### Historic building challenges

The installation project on a historic building, together with new rules of preserving places of importance, brought several technology challenges that the people in charge in Arakis & Belleville had to solve. It was necessary to solve the problem of how to ensure the camera would have the best possible view of the square and, simultaneously, it couldn't be spotted at all, if possible. The biggest challenge may have been gently fixing the camera to the inner town hall tower structure and unobtrusively placing the camera dome in front of the metal net protecting the tower interior against pigeons. Finally, both tasks were solved in a very elegant way. To gently fix the camera, a custom stainless steel bracket was made that enabled placing of the camera in a very discreet way that both doesn't block the access to the carillon bells and provides an open side view.

### Free possibilities for the future

Using the AXIS Streaming Assistant Interface, the image from the new installed camera is streamed to city servers where the images are stored for further processing. The technology features are currently used primarily to produce a slide show presenting a view of the same spot at various times during the day and seasonal changes to the square. This way, the analytical potential of the system is not fully exhausted; using the camera to monitor vehicles in the square in order to use parking places more effectively is under consideration.

