

Digital shield protects Brazilian and Bolivian border

Monitoring with high definition Axis IP cameras stop drug and arms trafficking and the illegal entry of immigrants



Organization:

Acre Bureau of Public Safety

Location:

Acre, Brazil

Industry segment:

City Surveillance

Application:

Video surveillance of borders

Axis partner:

Ziva Tecnologia e Soluções, ISS

Mission

The border region between Brazil and Bolivia is an area plagued by problems such as theft and illegal trafficking. The Acre Bureau of Public Safety needed to offer high-tech tools to the teams that patrol the border, with the aim of reducing crimes and vehicle thefts, which often involve moving stolen vehicles and goods from Brazil into neighboring Bolivia and Peru. It was also important to tackle other illegal activities, such as drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

Solution

Thanks to an investment of approximately US\$ 700K from a program created by the Brazilian federal government to strengthen border cities, a total of 70 AXIS Q6044-E Network Cameras were deployed at strategic points of entry and exit between Brazil and Bolivia. The project contract, which was awarded to the integrator Ziva, an Axis partner, makes use of SecurOS software from Intelligent Security Systems—ISS—another Axis partner.

Result

The first municipality to receive the advanced HDTV resolution surveillance system was Capixaba, where nine strategic points in the city were initially monitored on a trial basis. After that, the Bureau of Public Safety completed the installation of cameras at all entrance and exit points in the cities of Brasileia and Epitaciolândia. Border protection progressed to other cities as well.

In the words of the General Commander of the Acre Military Police, Colonel Júlio César, the system "is one more tool that supports our efforts to identify these illegal activities, not only for the military police but also for the civil and federal police."

“Investment in technology is as important as investment in personnel. And the border region is an area plagued by crime.”

Coronel Júlio César, General Commander of the Acre Military Police.

A new day for Acre

According to information from a study conducted by the Brazilian Forum for Public Security (Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública, FBSP), Acre has been the Brazilian state with the greatest investment in public safety.

Much of this investment is taking place due to the strategic position of the state in relation to neighboring countries, which allowed the inclusion of Acre in the National Border Strategy plan (Enafron). This program encourages and promotes public safety policies that address typical occurrences of the border areas, primarily using technology in the service of the intelligence sector and security agencies strategy.

Altogether, eight municipalities in Acre are covered by the video surveillance system, including the cities of Sena Madureira, Cruzeiro do Sul and Manoel Urbano, forming a true net of protection.

“We need to pay special attention so that the government can keep a hidden watch at strategic locations,” said the Secretary of Public Security, Emylson Farias.

Axis and ISS

In monitoring this important stretch of the Brazilian border, a combination of advanced features was used to enable control over the illegal circulation of goods and weapons. The software provided by ISS, an Axis partner, uses the level of detail offered by the images to provide a high degree of analytical and management capacity.

“ISS provides solutions that enable counter-trafficking forces to analyze the behavior of vehicles and persons crossing the borders, based on systems that capture faces and license plates and compare them to a database,” explains Alexandre Nastro, country manager of ISS in Brazil. In practice, the system can analyze the

behavior of vehicles and persons over a given period, tracking where they go, how long they remain in a certain place, how often they return to the same point, whether two or more vehicles were together in a certain area, etc.

“Based on this information, counter-trafficking units can strategize their investigations of suspicious actions along the borders,” said Nastro.

In order to ensure that everything worked well from the start, local forces were trained to operate the system and were given technical training on how to extract the information that the intelligent systems collected based on recognition of license plates and faces.

“This is a strategic project for the country, and we believe it will serve as a standard of reference for effective monitoring in critical areas,” notes Alexandre Nastro.

From the other side of the border

On the Bolivian side, the department of Pando has studied the possibility of integrating cross-checking of information with the Brazilian security forces. There has always been a good relationship between the governments of Acre and Pando. The idea is to outline a working strategy that uses surveillance cameras on the border as a way to reach criminals who are not only involved in theft but also other crimes, such as drug trafficking.

According to the Acre Secretary of Public Safety, Emylson Farias, the police have already been sharing information to curb vehicle thefts that occur in Brazil and that often involves transporting the stolen vehicles into neighboring countries. The idea now is to strengthen the exchange of information through the exchange of images recorded using video surveillance.

