

Standing up to heat, rain and humidity.

Rio Branco joins list of Brazilian state capitals with digital video surveillance, adding 30 IP cameras that are up to the challenges of its peculiar climate.



Organization:
Acre State Bureau of
Public Safety (Rio Branco)

Location:
Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Public safety and security

Axis partners:
Ziva Tecnologia e
Soluções, ISS

Mission

In 2009, Manaus, the capital of Amazonas state, became one of the first Brazilian cities to install an urban IP video surveillance system. For many years another Amazon capital, Rio Branco, in the neighboring state of Acre, continued handling its urban monitoring using 15 analog cameras. The problem was that this equipment did not survive very long thanks to the challenges of the equatorial climate—high humidity, intense heat, and heavy rains. At one point, none of the city's 15 cameras were working.

Solution

The Rio Branco authorities opened up a Request for Proposals in search of a robust and reliable video surveillance system, with the contract being awarded to Ziva, a partner of Axis. This security system uses 30 AXIS Q6044-E PTZ Network Cameras powered by High Power over Ethernet, which simplified installation.

The devices connect to the Monitoring Center of the Acre Bureau of Public Safety through radio links on the 4.9 GHz band – a segment that is only available to public safety authorities. The images are managed using SecurOS software from ISS - Intelligent Security Systems, an Axis manufacturing partner whose highly scalable solution allows the customer to grow their system according to their needs, since there are no limitations on the technology deployed.

Result

During the first two months following deployment of the new system in Rio Branco, 25 arrests were made during the commission of a crime, according to the Public Security of Acre. These images are used by the Civil Police in their research and intelligence work, reducing officers' physical exposure in risky actions.

“As far as the Axis cameras goes, we’re sure they’re a good investment for the Bureau, since not only do the 30 cameras installed in Rio Branco meet all the technical requirements we expected but we’ve also not had a single technical problem in the first three years of use.”

Leonardo de Abreu Barroso, public policy manager of the Acre Bureau of Public Safety - SESP.

Distance and climate

Acre state is in the far western region of Brazil, on the border with Peru and Bolivia, and it has one of the lowest population densities in the country. Its capital, Rio Branco, is located in an area that is relatively remote from major urban areas, and in terms of population size it only ranks 65th among Brazilian cities. Because of the distances involved and the low availability of IT vendors, when equipment fails it can take a long time to get it repaired—if ever.

This limited availability of local sources for the supplies and accessories needed for equipment maintenance meant that the urban video surveillance project facility needed to be reliable and not require frequent repairs. It was a challenge for the city even just to find a company to rent cranes to install the cameras.

The high temperatures in the Amazon region represent another unique challenge that has the potential to affect system operation. This was one of the factors weighed when choosing Axis cameras, which can withstand temperatures of up to 50 °C.

Crime hotspots

With an investment of approximately US\$ 360,000,00 coming from an agreement with the National Bureau of Public Security (Senasp), the new IP video surveillance system was designed to strengthen preventive policing in so-called crime hotspots.

The cameras were distributed based on an analysis carried out by the Military Police, with equipment placed strategically in locations that normally serve as escape routes, especially in cases of robberies and drug trafficking.

Following this study, the equipment was installed despite the adverse weather. “There were days when temperatures hit around 40 °C,” recalls Wanderley Andrade, business manager at Ziva, the integrator responsible for the project. “And our job required us to be out on the street or up on telecommunications towers.”

Public safety and mobility

In the period during which the new IP system has been in full operation, the Axis cameras have picked up additional functions that go beyond urban safety. The Chief of the Acre Bureau of Public Safety, Emylson Farias, stresses the importance of using images to monitor the busiest areas. “The cameras make a hugely important contribution both to public safety and the issue of urban mobility,” he notes.

The operations center uses the camera images to monitor the flow of cars in neighborhoods, and in the event of serious situations or accidents it can follow developments in real time and offer valuable support and information to rescue teams, for example. This streamlines first aid and response to victims, as well as preventing congestion.

