Police response in real time.

The city of San Miguel, in Argentina, adopted an intelligent video surveillance system that includes the reading of vehicle license plates to prevent and solve crimes.

Organization:
Municipality of San Miguel

Location:
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Industry segment:
City Surveillance

Application:
Urban safety and security

Axis partner:
Exanet, Milestone

Mission

The camera system that the city of San Miguel used to support its mission of citizen safety and security was obsolete. Security forces needed information on events in real time in order to adequately coordinate the deployment of security personnel on the ground. Such a system would allow them to respond as incidents were occurring and quickly restore residents' sense of tranquility. Because the existing system had quickly become obsolete, the goal was to acquire a new system that could easily be kept up to date.

Solution

The best option to enable faster police response was an intelligent urban video surveillance system based on Axis network cameras and offering video analytics. Thanks to the project implemented by Exanet, the city now has more than 300 devices throughout its urban area integrated into Milestone's XProtect® VMS. This system allows local security forces to operate in an optimal fashion.

Video surveillance is now part of the local "Crime Prevention Operational Plan," which consists of real-time monitoring from the Municipal Operations Center to detect suspicious scenarios and check license plates—one of the project's biggest technological successes. The investment took into account not only the immediate benefits of intelligent security management but also the financial savings the system represents over the long term.

Result

All this was possible thanks to the implementation of license plate reading (LPR) using Axis cameras. This system improved the response capacity of city police by specifying the location of incidents and scanning the area using nearby cameras to detect perpetrators. These images have even served as forensic evidence in criminal investigations, identifying the people and vehicles involved and helping to provide a clearer picture of the situation.

AXIS®
COMMUNICATIONS

"Its robustness, durability, and Zipstream compression technology were key reasons why we chose Axis for this project; it offered greatly improved technical performance compared to the previous system."

Juan José Esper, Secretary of Public Safety in San Miguel.

A new philosophy

The city of San Miguel is part of the urban area known as Greater Buenos Aires. Due to the area's growing population and the daily transit of thousands of individuals, the city needed to reformulate its public safety plan.

In 2016, San Miguel adopted a broad concept of security and safety, which it defines as the absence of incidents that affect the normal conduct of residents' lives in public spaces—from the cutting of a power cable to the dumping of garbage in prohibited areas. If any incident does upset the status quo, the goal is to minimize its negative effects on people's lives and property.

The Municipal Operations Center is set up to handle this surveillance work and to integrate all preventive and reactive functions concerning crime, violations, acts of violence, accidents, and environmental incidents that disrupt the public order. Operators in the Operations Centers communicate with other city agencies and organizations in the district, such as the fire department, the Buenos Aires police, utility and public transportation companies, and so on.

"The goal of this project, which we have solidly achieved, was to change the way of "doing public safety" so it would be in line with the public policies that the city has developed on this subject. The client understood the importance of using open technology, as well as the power of needs-based analytical integration, to achieve their safety and security objectives," says Hugo Menegozzi, CEO of Exanet.

Emphasis on prevention

With an eye to sustaining this plan over the long term, the project's approach needed to focus on "total cost of ownership," taking into account all the ways the city will be able to capitalize on this high-performance, open, and scalable digital system.

The video surveillance component of this project is part of the city's Crime Prevention Operational Plan, which includes observation and surveillance routines in critical areas that seek to identify suspicious situations. One of these routines is vehicle license plate checks. This function is performed by 256 AXIS P5635-E Network Cameras, a model with a wide-ranging panoramic view that provides excellent results on busy streets. These observational routines are integrated with street patrols by public safety personnel in patrol cars, on motorcycles, or on foot, taking advantage of savings in effort, time, and money.

Local storage was an important item for the customer, which is why 14 AXIS P1405-E Network Cameras were used. This model offers local storage, and its outdoor image quality is excellent under both day and nighttime conditions. In addition, 61 AXIS P1365 Network Cameras were installed in those urban areas where light conditions are suboptimal. Axis Lightfinder technology generates color images even in low light environments. The system also includes 37 AXIS F44 Main Units. Finally, AXIS M1125, AXIS M3004, and AXIS M1114 models round out the project.

One notable advantage among the many offered by the system is the complete control that operators have over all the installed security cameras, the speed of access, the ease of mastering 360-degree operation, the readability of the images obtained in real-time—with unmatched sharpness, color, and detection of details— and the technical durability of the equipment and management systems.