

Axis enables Knowsley College to look into an IP-Surveillance future.

UK campuses gain 100% surveillance coverage with future-proof solution.



Organization:
Knowsley College

Location:
Liverpool, United
Kingdom

Industry segment:
Education

Application:
Campus security

Axis partner:
MCW Group

Mission

Knowsley Community College has 3,500 full-time students, aged between 14 and 19 years old. The majority of these students are located at the Kirkby and Roby campuses which are located seven miles apart, north-east of Liverpool. During 2006 the college's principal tasked his assistant estates manager, Domingo Rodriguez-Baez, with specifying and developing a new, more comprehensive surveillance system for both campuses. The request followed a number of petty criminal incidents in parking lots which went undetected due to the inadequate analog-based CCTV system in place at the time.

Solution

Knowsley College achieved 100% coverage with this new surveillance solution. Axis partner MCW Group installed 172 Axis network cameras at Kirkby and a further 152 at Roby, ensuring that every entrance, corridor, stairwell, back alley, server room, boiler room and switch

room was integrated into a comprehensive IP-Surveillance system. All cameras are Power over Ethernet (PoE), achieving total savings of £26,000 at the installation stage in comparison with a quotation from a local specialist for an equivalent number of wired analog CCTV cameras.

MCW Group recommended a video storage and management solution based on Axis network cameras, HP Proliant servers and Milestone XProtect video management software. By deploying the latest version of Milestone XProtect Enterprise the college has the option to integrate both Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and facial recognition functionality at a later date, both of which it is considering for vetting visitors and policing assigned parking spaces. In addition, the college's security manager now has the option of viewing images on his mobile device while patrolling elsewhere in the campus or off-site.

"I wanted to recommend a future-proof solution. It needs to grow with our needs and enable us to make continual improvements and extensions. I knew a pure IP system offered these options whereas it became increasingly clear that analog-based CCTV has no future because it cannot absorb new technology developments such as wireless, Power over Ethernet, progressive scan, megapixel or compression enhancements including H.264."

Domingo Rodriguez-Baez, Assistant Estates Manager, Knowsley Community College.

Result

Knowsley College now has a pure IP-Surveillance system which provides 100% coverage of both campuses and offers a platform flexible enough to take advantage of new technology developments such as the H.264 compression standard, megapixel cameras and intelligent analytics capabilities including ANPR and facial recognition. Return on the £500,000 total investment will be achieved in less than six years, as this IP-based solution can be maintained by the college's own IT department – if the existing analog-based CCTV system had been extended, maintenance would have needed to be outsourced at a cost of £72,000 per year.

Knowsley Community College – award-winning vocational skills center

The college, which opened in 1984, operates across two large campuses to the northeast of Liverpool. It also has three high street 'learning shops' and delivers courses via more than 200 community outreach centers. The Kirkby campus has an award-winning vocational skills center and offers courses such as brick laying, joinery and hair & beauty; as well as business studies, business administration and secretarial training. The college employs 700 staff including 400 teachers and has been awarded Grade One (Outstanding) in Leadership & Management by UK schools inspectorate Ofsted.

Pure IP-Surveillance provides total coverage and future-proof investment

During the 1980s a standalone CCTV system had been installed in both campuses of the college. From the early 2000s, there had been an increasing number of petty criminal incidents such as damaged car hubcaps and side-view mirrors in the campus' parking lot. It was frustrating to know that, despite investment in CCTV cameras, there was no guarantee that the college's security team would be able to find the culprits or even confirm what happened following an incident.

When these acts of vandalism occurred worried parents would often enquire whether the college had traced the offenders on camera. Subsequent investigations often proved unsuccessful because relevant CCTV footage could not be located and the college's principal, Sir George Sweeny, parents and staff alike were expressing their frustration with the situation. Sir George subsequently tasked Domingo to find a more comprehensive and reliable surveillance system in keeping with the college's vision of providing a secure site for education. After weighing up the options of extending the existing CCTV system, moving to a CCTV-IP hybrid system, or building a pure IP-Surveillance system, Domingo chose to specify a pure IP-Surveillance system. The new system offers both assurance of return on investment and the flexibility to extend the functionality and scale of the system in the future.

