

Châteaurenard boosts its video surveillance capabilities.

Under its public security policy, the municipality is upgrading its system from analog to IP technology.



Organization:
Châteaurenard
Municipality

Location:
Châteaurenard, France

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Strengthening the
municipality's security

Axis partners:
Concept Télécom
and Camtrace

Mission

In 2002, the town of Châteaurenard (France) experienced a surge in vandalism. To deal with this upsurge of incidents, local elected officials decided to strengthen the municipality's security.

With the support of local residents and shopkeepers, the municipality introduced a range of measures to contain these incidents: doubling of the size of the municipal police force, purchase of a patrol car, and deployment of an extensive video surveillance network.

Solution

In 2003, 28 analog cameras were installed in the town, in particular to provide surveillance of public parking areas. In 2006, the municipality decided to expand and improve its existing system by adding Axis network cameras and video servers. The IT Department called on its integrator, Concept Télécom, to help with the project.

Result

In addition to achieving the initial objectives, the managers involved in this project agree that their work is now easier thanks to the quality of the images, which are recorded in real time. Furthermore, all the guarantees were obtained to ensure that the system's operation would be fully compliant with upholding individual and collective freedoms.

Opting for an effective system to help the police force

The IT Department wanted to have a video surveillance system that could provide complete satisfaction in terms of image quality. The analog system installed in 2003 supplied low-resolution black-and-white images. This sometimes made it difficult to search through videos when police were attempting to identify an individual.

"After implementing this system, we recorded a reduction in acts of vandalism, and the dissuasive effect of the cameras played a great part in that."

Mr Seisson, IT Supervisor of the town of Châteaurenard.

"We wanted to double the resolution of the image, though without overloading our hard disk, and we also wanted to choose a flexible solution to allow for future extensions", says Mr Seisson.

Under its public security policy, the municipality of Châteaurenard boosted its video surveillance capabilities by migrating its analog system to a system fully based on IP, using Axis network cameras and video servers. By January 2007, the entire new system was in place:

- > 7 AXIS 241Q Video Servers are connected to the existing analog cameras, converting all the analog feeds into digital feeds so that they can be used on the IP network and viewed remotely in real time.
- > 13 new Axis network cameras are deployed on the town's main street, the Cours Carnot, and in 5 public parking buildings.
- > The CamTrace video management solution was also selected to view all of the installed cameras, and to record and use the images and video sequences more effectively.

The image management process was studied comprehensively and approved by the Supervisors of the Town Hall IT Department and by the Municipal Police Chief.

An accurate system, a real boost to the Municipal Police

For the IT Division of Châteaurenard, the video surveillance system as it was designed and deployed is a great success. It fully meets the required specifications and offers great advantages that reduce unsocial acts and damage, and have led to the punishment of many criminal offences since it was installed:

- > **User-friendly system:** The images from the 41 cameras are transmitted to the premises of the Municipal Police and processed directly by the Police Chief and his team, strictly in compliance with the legal rules that preserve confidentiality, ensure compliance with professional secrecy and govern disclosure to the public.

- > **Clearer images:** The cameras provide superior image quality that makes identification and recognition easier. Thanks to the high sensitivity even under poor urban lighting, the AXIS 211 Network Cameras provide color video even at night.
- > **Round-the-clock recording:** When needed in an investigation, the videos are burned to DVD and sent to the Châteaurenard police headquarters. They are checked to resolve any doubts and enable the investigation to be conducted more thoroughly.
- > **Optimal security:** The system was designed so that each camera is filmed by another camera. This "self-protection" was aimed at dissuading any acts of vandalism.

Seeing the bigger picture

Leveraging the renovation work being done on the town center, the engineering office of the municipal technical department designed an underground network of ducts to carry fiber-optic cables, reducing the costs of installation. This will also allow the installation of an infrastructure that could eventually be used by other communications technologies.

To find out more:

Town of Châteaurenard: The town of Châteaurenard is located in Provence in the département of Bouches-du-Rhône and has a population of 14,000.
www.chateaurenard.com [in French]

Concept Télécom: Integrator specializing in the deployment of corporate telecommunications solutions, voice over IP, IT networks, fiber optics and IP video.
www.concept-telecom.fr

CamTrace: Axis Application Development Partner (ADP), specializing since 2002 in designing IP-surveillance solutions using Axis Communications products.
www.camtrace.com

