

Axis network video helps the municipal police to effectively control the traffic in Galdakao.



Organization:
Galdakao Town Hall

Location:
Vizcaya, Euskadi, Spain

Industry segment:
Government

Application:
Traffic management

Axis partner:
Sumenor

Mission

One of the main problems experienced by Town Halls is that they must provide many services to citizens with limited human resources. Due to the constant increase of tasks they must apply the ingenuity and tools available to them to offer the quality of service that citizens demand. Fortunately, new technologies are used at times to overcome these limitations effectively.

A situation similar to that has been occurring in the City of Galdakao, a town that, due to its proximity to Bilbao, has experienced in recent years a significant growth in population and, as a result, in vehicles. On the one hand, the need to strengthen police presence in three specific areas of the town, to control traffic due to the increasing number of incidents and, on the other hand, the limitations of the numerical strength of the Municipal Police force complicated this possibility without neglecting other important areas and aspects for the Security Department of the Town Hall.

The purpose of the project was to implement a video surveillance system designed to enhance the effectiveness of preventive policing, in terms of timely traffic control and monitoring vehicular traffic in these conflict areas. Additionally, it intended to centralize image reception from the new cameras with those from other cameras already installed and host a video management system at the Municipal Police facilities.

Solution

Having previous experience in the use of network cameras for surveillance around the Galdakao station, the Town Hall proceeded to call for a tender to develop the network video surveillance system that would help them control traffic at these critical points. The system proposed by Sumenor, based on Axis network cameras and Proxim Wireless links, was awarded the contract, and under the joint action of the Town Hall and the company, the development and deployment of this solution was implemented.

"Thanks to the video surveillance system based on Axis network cameras, we have managed to enhance Municipal Police performance in terms of traffic control, without requiring extra staff. We have already demonstrated the usefulness of the network video system and consider it very helpful to solve many of the traffic problems we suffer daily."

Roberto Candela, Head of Security of the Galdakao Town Hall.

During the installation, Sumenor technicians solved several problems, such as the large distances between camera locations and the Municipal Police offices, the difficult terrain, and transmission problems at one of the selected sites.

The system consists of four AXIS 233D Network Dome Cameras with anti-vandal housings. Three of them are located in the downtown area of Galdakao and the rest in the Elexalde area. In order to ensure image transmission, Sumenor technicians implemented a fiber optic network of over 800 meters, thus providing service to the three cameras in the downtown area. The fourth one, being in a high altitude area and away from downtown had to be included in the system via Wi-Fi links.

The cameras' zoom capabilities and excellent image quality make it possible to identify the license plate of vehicles committing violations, from many meters away. The video surveillance system has minimal impact on the environment and strictly complies with current regulations regarding privacy of individuals.

Result

All images captured by the cameras are recorded and managed from the control center located at the municipal police station of Galdakao. If a traffic violation is committed within the camera range, an image is downloaded and a photo of the vehicle showing the license plate number is sent to the center.

The system allows multiple observers from different locations or municipal buildings, from PDAs, and via remote connections. The images are stored on multiple redundant storage servers. The video streams are deleted at the end of the period stipulated by law.

To control the cameras, the Town Hall has Sumenor's support, which provides training on system use to police personnel responsible for this service. Thus, a single person present at the control center can effectively manage traffic at critical points, which is an important optimization of staff.

Given the importance of the areas where the cameras are located, the Town Hall regularly receives requests for images by Ertzaina, the regional police force, which is a clear example of cooperation between law enforcement agencies from different areas.

The Town Hall has been able to observe that the presence of the cameras is producing behavioral changes in drivers, much like what happened a few years ago with the introduction of radars. This has led to a drop in violations at these points and the camera presence and effects are a deterrent to most reckless drivers. In addition, residents of affected areas have expressed their satisfaction with this Town Hall decision.

