

The Paris National Opera optimizes its video protection system.

A pioneer among institutional sites, the Paris Opera has opted for IP to protect its employees, visitors and heritage with cameras and encoders from Axis.



Organization:
Paris National Opera

Location:
Paris, France

Industry segment:
Government

Application:
Video surveillance
protection for people
and property

Axis partners:
Cisdec, Multiaxe,
Camtrace

Mission

In 2008, the Bastille Opera had more than 130 analog cameras, while the Garnier Opera was not yet equipped. Working with the IT department, the opera's administration wanted to develop a system that would respond to several issues. While continuing to provide security for people and property, the video protection system had to enhance prevention and speed up response in the event of an incident or breakdown. The opera also wanted to use this development to migrate the system to IP for easier management and better scalability.

Solution

At the Bastille Opera, 32 Axis network cameras were installed to complement the existing system, and the analog flow was taken over by Axis encoders. Three monitoring stations were installed so that the security command post, the head of security and the IT manager could all have access to the images. At both sites, video management software called CamTrace was installed for displaying and administering the cameras.

At the Garnier Opera, 50 Axis network cameras were installed. A security command post was also created so that the head of IT could manage the cameras from his office.

Result

The users are completely satisfied with the system the opera chose. They point out its strong impact in decreasing damage and internal theft. Besides the deterrent effect and improved identification, the cameras' aesthetics helped sway the opera's decision-makers. The units can be discreetly hidden in the Garnier and Bastille's historic buildings.



A landmark of French culture, the Paris National Opera is a must for those who love architecture, theater and music. Each year, at its various locations, the institution welcomes an audience of hundreds of millions, some of whom require tight security. To optimize safety for its 1,800 employees, 800,000 spectators and 480,000 visitors – not to mention its heritage – the public institution decided in 2008 to update its video surveillance system.

The Paris National Opera had a traditional analog video protection system consisting of over 130 cameras distributed throughout the Bastille Opera, but the Garnier Opera was not equipped. The technical department wasn't completely happy with the system, because they wanted to improve incident prevention and speed up response time. The opera also wanted better information in the event of a breakdown, so that they could react more quickly without needing an external supplier for primary maintenance.

The IT department was in charge of the project. They worked closely with the administrative office to investigate the best possible solution to these issues. The departments' combined expertise enabled them to draw up a specification quickly, and it naturally pointed to IP.

"Our choice was to go with new technologies, and that meant IP cameras. Among the advantages was the fact that we knew we could count on remote accessibility, image quality, intelligent video and optimized event management," explains Jean-Christophe Hubert, the computer and network manager.

Thus, at the end of 2009, the opera launched a tender for the Bastille and Garnier operas. It involved adding interior and exterior cameras, as well as a system for managing the cameras, plus local recording.

The technical criteria helped select suppliers of cameras that suited to the opera's environment: low interior light, fluid movement for motorized cameras, management of back lighting, and the ability to enlarge images in real time for more detail. In addition to the technical criteria, the new cameras were also evaluated for appearance, because they had to be discreet and fit into the location. In fact, since the Palais Garnier is a designated historical monument, it could not have imposing cameras that looked out of place.

Given these criteria, Multiaxe – specialists in installing professional IP solutions – proposed AXIS Q6032-E and AXIS P3344/-VE Network Cameras. These cameras received a technical score of 94/100, which made them the winning bid.

For the camera management interface, the opera chose the CamTrace server solution for its UNIX (FreeBSD) platform – more reliable for a large-scale video protection system. The opera's technical team also noticed other benefits, such as easy camera updating, the ability to do primary maintenance internally, and the software's compatibility with many camera brands.

"CamTrace offered good quality for the money, because the camera cost per server is very reasonable. The machines' power was decisive to our decision," explains Mr. Dupont, system administrator for the Paris National Opera.





"During the tender, the Axis cameras got a technical rating of 94 out of 100. They also met our expectations from an aesthetic point of view. So for the Paris National Opera, the choice was obvious."

Jean-Christophe Hubert, computer and network manager, Paris National Opera.



Besides the technical characteristics, the opera's team appreciated their relationship with the various suppliers for the video protection solution they had selected. "Cisdec, the existing supplier for camera maintenance, has always approached our issues with vision. They were sold on the advantages of IP and helped set up a progressive, future-oriented system," continued Mr. Hubert.

The project's four protagonists: Axis, CamTrace, Cisdec and Multiaxe also proved to the Paris National Opera that they were "partners you can work with". Contact with each of them always resulted in quick action in providing products, technical information or commercial proposals. "As a public institution, we are offered more analog solutions. At the opera, we bet on the future, on flexible, scalable solutions that we could implement rapidly and effectively with the help of our suppliers," remarked Gilles Djérouane, head of the administrative department.

The administrative and IT departments are very satisfied with the installed video protection system. The new system's deterrent effect and improved identification of criminals have resulted in significant reduction in damage and internal theft. Now the routes between the private and public portions of the buildings are dealt with, and the cameras do an excellent job of monitoring people within the areas that are off limits to the public. The overall system's simplicity of use allowed the opera to get up and running quickly on its own. The prospect of extending the system to various sites administered by the opera is currently being studied.



Camtrace - www.camtrace.com
Camtrace SAS is a French company specialized in IP video surveillance. The CamTrace servers they develop are distributed in more than 15 countries by an international network of certified installers. The expertise of CamTrace engineers in IT systems and network programming has resulted in a range of robust, high-performance video servers with innovative architecture and functions.



CISDEC - www.cisdec.com
Experts in integrating professional video IP solutions, certified and recommended by the market's largest manufacturers, and backed by many years of experience. Cisdec handles the audit, recommendation, installation and maintenance of security video equipment. Thanks to their skill and preferred partners, such as Axis and Camtrace, Cisdec could implement a total solution that met all requirements of the Paris National Opera.



Multiaxe - www.multiaxe.com
Multiaxe implements IP video solutions for business, both for local video surveillance or remote surveillance such as in process monitoring applications. Operating since 1993, with strong proficiency in both networks and security, the company has also mastered imaging to extend its expertise in the field and to improve customer loyalty.

About Axis Communications

Axis is an IT company offering network video solutions for professional installations. The company is the global market leader in network video, driving the ongoing shift from analog to digital video surveillance. Axis products and solutions focus on security surveillance and remote monitoring, and are based on innovative, open technology platforms.

Axis is a Swedish-based company, operating worldwide with offices in more than 20 countries and cooperating with partners in more than 70 countries. Founded in 1984, Axis is listed on the NASDAQ OMX Stockholm under the ticker AXIS. For more information about Axis, please visit our website at www.axis.com.