

Iberfruta Muerza S.A.

Multi-purpose video surveillance for quality and security assurance.



Organization:
Iberfruta Muerza S.A.

Location:
Spain

Industry segment:
Industrial

Application:
Control of production
process

Mission

Iberfruta Muerza S.A, in addition to acting as supplier of semi-finished materials for other manufacturers, is also a manufacturer through the trademark BEBÉ, a company following home-made and traditional methods begun in 1875 and specializing in the manufacturing and marketing of quality marmalade and confectionary, addressed both to the consumer market and the hotel industry.

The process of manufacturing marmalade and preserves gives rise to a series of safety specifications and quality standards for the treatment and preservation of the fruit, where a strict control of the product's condition is key.

This need to ensure constant control has caused the company BEBÉ to search for technologies to improve the manufacturing process and quality control of its products. An R&D department was created in order to find state-of-the-art technology for its plant located in San Adrián (Navarra).

The need to have a recording of the site's production processes was also part of the requirements, and therefore the search for a system enabling video surveillance tasks with reliable recording and providing added value was started.

Solution

On the company's own initiative, two proposals were studied: one based on analog cameras connected to video encoders and another fully based on network cameras.

The first system studied was the analog one, as it was already partially installed in the facilities for viewing some of the factory's processes. This system presented serious scalability issues as it entailed a significant disbursement of funds every time a camera was to be added to the facilities. Image quality and interlacing problems also raised doubts about this solution.

"The evolution of Axis cameras during the last few years has been resounding; the quality these cameras deliver relieves you from practically any maintenance concern you may have."

Luis Miguel Solá, Chief of Maintenance – General Facilities, Iberfruta Muerza S.A.

On the other hand, the IP video surveillance system not only offered a better solution as to scalability, ease of search for recordings and event management, and image quality. It also gave added value features to the installation, such as video motion detection.

The possibility of viewing in real-time, from any PC, what was going on at the factory via a web browser was a significant advantage. This way, the surveillance system would not only turn into a security control tool but would also be a very useful tool for the quality department to monitor processes. In addition, the ease of integration and the capability to leverage on the existing network induced a lower investment, which was highly appreciated.

A first batch of Axis network cameras were installed to cover the parking area of the factory. This experience, given its excellent results, further confirmed the choice of Axis network video technology, pointing out the cameras' superior image quality and the invaluable help of the company's technical support.

The next step was thus to install an IP-based system at BEBÉ's facilities of San Adrián. A multi-purpose installation was deployed over a broad area, having the following main tasks:

- > Ensure surveillance of the factory's parking area.
- > Obtain a reliable access control of entries and exits from the factory, allowing precise control over access to cold storage rooms, a critical issue for maintaining the product's quality intact. Another requirement was the control of entries and exits of company vehicles.
- > Maintain an optimal process control, monitoring at all times the accumulation of residues in the factory's container area and ensuring, through a visual reference from any point, that the operation of the electric power co-generation plant is appropriate.

Result

The result has proven to be very positive, both for employees and section supervisors who are able to monitor any of the factory's processes from any PC within the premises. Given the large surface area of the building, a previous installation was found, based on a series of fiber optic points which were satisfactorily used for the new IP installation. This meant an additional benefit as to installation costs.

The advantage offered by Axis network cameras regarding bandwidth consumption, was also appreciated. The possibility of changing the settings of each camera allows the update of the frames per second to be recorded according to the mission performed by each camera at a time.

The company

The business group Iberfruta Muerza S.A., member of the Helios group, is one of the main European manufacturers and suppliers of fruit and vegetable semi-manufactured products. Currently the group owns several manufacturing plants in Spain operating at full capacity, located in Azagra (Navarra), La Palma del Condado (Huelva), and Iscar (Valladolid), as well as other similar facilities in Morocco and Germany. Promoters of ecological agriculture, the group Iberfruta Muerza S.A. stands out for its responsibility for a product whose end use deserves all kinds of precautions and a strict control of each process, from harvesting raw materials to the distribution of its semi-finished or finished products. From the facilities owned by Iberfruta in Azagra (Navarra), the fruit undergoes a peeling, natural processing and preservation process, and from then on, it can be used in several end products: yogurts, baking bases, children's food and marmalade.

