

Modern technology takes elite athletes over the finish line.

Track and field athletes train more effectively with the help of intelligent camera systems from Axis Communications and Spiideo.



Organization:
Sports stadiums in Sweden

Location:
Sweden

Industry segment:
Stadiums/Venues

Application:
Remote guidance/teaching, remote monitoring

Axis partner:
Spiideo

Mission

Many athletes need to be able to analyze their movements in order to identify where their training should be focused to achieve their dream results. This can be done with a regular handheld camera, but this method has a number of limitations. Spiideo, an Axis partner, has developed a solution that makes it possible for athletes and their coaches to record movements in real time, and then immediately view and analyze the sequences on a mobile device, without having to worry about handling the camera, starting the recording, or inserting and removing a memory card.

Solution

The solution consists of AXIS V59 PTZ Network Cameras, which have a smooth and flexible PTZ function, and the intelligent Spiideo app, which is integrated in the camera via the ACAP (AXIS Camera Application Platform) interface. The user downloads the Spiideo app to their iPad or iPhone via the App Store.

The intelligent AXIS V59 PTZ Network Camera will then start recording when the athlete crosses a predefined line. This means that you can record the sequence of the training that you want to analyze without having to deal with unwanted footage in the recording. The video is stored on the mobile device, where you can then study it at normal speed or in slow motion.

Result

The solution is easy to install and simple to use. The image quality is high definition and additional imaging can even be applied to enhance the analytical value of the footage. At present, systems are up and running in Gothenburg and Lund. Famous track and field stars and coaches, like Linus Thörnblad (who brought home medals for the high jump in several major championships), are currently using the system with great success.

Photo: Linus Thörnblad, Swedish high jumper

“We track and field athletes use the Spiideo system regularly. It’s simple and flexible, and gives me exactly the kind of feedback I need after a high jump, for example. The images from the camera are also really good. I see only benefits to using Spiideo. It helps us athletes get better and better.”

Track and field star Linus Thörnblad.

Analysis on mobile devices

It’s no secret that track and field athletes have a great need to analyze their movements in order to improve their results. A common method is for the coach to film the athlete with a handheld camera during training. However, this method has its shortcomings because it draws the coach’s focus away from the athlete and puts it more on handling the camera. In addition, some athletes don’t have a coach at their disposal and must instead find a way to film their movements during training on their own. By combining Axis network cameras with an analysis app, Spiideo (a partner of Axis) a solution has now been developed that makes it possible for athletes and their coaches to film movements in real time, and then immediately view and analyze the sequences on a mobile device. The user simply downloads an app from the App Store to their iPad or iPhone.

Quick recording capabilities

AXIS V59 PTZ Network Camera is designed for audio and video broadcasting. The cameras have HDTV resolution up to 1080 p with 60 images per second; pan, tilt and zoom; high-quality audio; and powerful 30x zoom. A smooth and responsive PTZ feature (pan, tilt and zoom) makes the camera suitable for applications where quick recording capabilities are required. The camera also supports the AXIS Camera Application Platform (ACAP), which means that an analysis program like Spiideo can be uploaded to the camera and does not have to be run on a separate server.

Save or share the results

Spiideo has installed a number of these systems across Sweden. The simple and easy-to-use system comprises a network, cables, cameras and the Spiideo analysis app, as well as configuration of the system according to the user’s wishes. Via an iPad or iPhone, the users – athletes and coaches – can then select their discipline (high jump, running, javelin, etc.). The camera will then focus on the start position and follow the athlete through the race, the jump or the throw. Afterwards, the athlete can immediately study their performance, run the footage in slow motion, run it back, and zoom in and then return to training to work on the issues identified. The sequences are also saved on the mobile device and can even be shared via social media.

