

Tightening warehouse and loading dock security.

Andlauer Transportation Services deploys intelligent video surveillance system to increase security across its nationwide network with tactical control in Toronto.



Organization:
Andlauer Transportation
Services

Location:
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Industry segment:
Transportation

Application:
Surveillance of loading
docks and warehouses

Axis partner:
UCIT Online Security

Mission

The Andlauer Transportation Services (ATS) commitment to supply chain integrity was being tested by thefts from trailers docked at its warehouses. Its analog surveillance system was proving an insufficient deterrent to burglars and lacked the flexibility to add and redeploy cameras as needed. The Canadian transportation company had already coupled advanced trailer tracking technology with dynamic transport resources to provide integrated trucking, courier, air freight and value-added transportation and distribution services to major retailers, entertainment and pharmaceutical companies across the provinces. Upgrading its surveillance system to provide a more secure environment for customers' goods was a logical step for a company known for delivering innovative customer service.

Solution

John Burdett, Corporate Loss Prevention Manager at ATS collaborated with UCIT Online Security, a Mississauga, Ontario-based video surveillance integrator, to design and install a completely IP-based video security system that would allow security guards to more closely monitor the firm's 24 facilities that stretch across the provinces. UCIT Online chose an array of indoor/outdoor network cameras and video encoders from Axis Communications coupled with DETEXI Network Video Management System software from Canadian Network Systems Group to create a digital, real-time event recording system. The network cameras provide high-quality images that deliver the high resolution required for identifying possible security leaks. And because the solution is IP-based, cameras can be added and redeployed with no disruption to the surveillance network.

"Since we installed the network surveillance system, we have been able to keep thefts of trucks and goods at an absolute minimum."

John Burdett, Corporate Loss Prevention Manager for Andlauer Transportation Services.

Result

Before the new video surveillance system was in place, the security team at ATS had located specific areas of interest. After installing an AXIS 221 Network Camera designed for both day and night lighting conditions, ATS was able to secure these areas. According to John Burdett, "Potential thieves are now aware of our high level of security and are heavily discouraged from committing crimes." With the success of IP-based surveillance at the initial five sites – two in Toronto and one each in Vancouver, Halifax and Quebec City – ATS has begun rolling out the solution to its Calgary and Edmonton facilities and will quickly deploy the solution to its remaining 17 locations on an as-soon-as-possible basis.

Relentless about loss prevention

"Because of our focus on complete customer care, we are relentless about protecting the value of goods in our possession," declared Burdett. To that end, UCIT Online installed 175 Axis network cameras both inside and around the perimeter of ATS' state of the art facilities in Toronto, Halifax Vancouver and Quebec City.

Surveillance at the main doors is covered by AXIS 216FD (fixed-dome) Network Cameras housed in tamper-resistant casings. Wherever pan/tilt/zoom capabilities were needed both indoors and outdoors, UCIT Online deployed AXIS 214 PTZ Network Cameras. Inside the loading docks, UCIT Online mounted AXIS 211 Network Cameras to monitor the loading bay doors. To ensure clear video surveillance footage even at night, UCIT Online mounted AXIS 221 Day & Night Network Cameras on building exteriors. Because a single AXIS 223M Network Camera with megapixel functionality can cover larger areas than multiple standard pixel cameras without compromising image quality, UCIT Online chose to deploy those for detailed overviews of ATS' warehouse exteriors and parking lots.

With the addition of AXIS 241Q Video Encoders to the network, ATS was able to tie in existing analog cameras into the network. This enabled the Toronto facilities to extend the return on investment in their perfectly serviceable analog cameras.

Expanding surveillance coverage for less

Because the DETEXI software has an intuitive interface, Burdett said, "The system is easy enough for our security personnel to use with very minimal training." Not only does the management software automatically send an alert when someone enters a restricted area, it creates a protected video record of events, allowing fast search and retrieval of video footage and detailed analysis of the high-resolution images captured by the network cameras. Centralize authentication, virtual private network tunnels and firewalls ensure the security of the video transmissions.

"We wanted to future-proof the company and so we sought out an advanced network surveillance system that would meet our needs today and continue to grow with us," explained Burdett. "Now we can easily add cameras to any area that is networked, move cameras around as needed and monitor the entire system from a single location in Toronto."

The ability to remotely monitor activity has allowed ATS to reduce the number of onsite guards it employs for each of its facilities without compromising security. "This has resulted in a huge savings for us," stated Burdett.

