

A customized video surveillance system for Biarritz Airport. Using Axis video servers, Biarritz Airport migrated its video surveillance system to IP.



Organization:
Biarritz airport

Location:
Biarritz, France

Industry segment:
Transportation

Application:
Strengthening
the airport
security measures

Axis partner:
Omnitech Security

Mission

The Biarritz-Anglet-Bayonne Airport is located 75% in the town of Anglet and 25% in that of Biarritz, in the French Basque Country. Approximately 500 people work at the airport, which welcomes 865,000 passengers per year. In order to strengthen the airport's security measures, management decided in March 2006 to upgrade its video surveillance system. The airport had an installed base of only 10 analog cameras, which needed to be expanded and deployed throughout the entire site. Simultaneously, all of the video feeds needed to be centralized in order to provide effective video surveillance.

Solution

To meet the new requirements, the video surveillance system had to be capable of monitoring access to the airport's restricted access areas using a motion detection system, and recording the inspection, filtering, and baggage search stations. It also had to comply with the various security standards imposed by the French Civil Aviation Agency.

In order to find a cost-effective solution that would fit the different variables, Biarritz Airport chose to expand its network of existing analog cameras and combined them with Axis video encoders.

Result

The use of Axis video encoders achieved three objectives:

- > Switching from an analog to a digital system while protecting existing investments,
- > Taking full advantage of network video using the existing analog cameras,
- > Guaranteeing that the system will be easily expandable and used in the future, given its abilities to integrate with other applications.

“Strengthening our video surveillance system was vital both for regulatory reasons and to ensure passenger security.”

Mr. Christophe Nicaud, Responsible for the Maintenance Department at Biarritz-Anglet-Bayonne airport.

Switching from analog to digital

In light of budgetary considerations, the IT Department of the Biarritz Airport sought to retain its existing equipment, specifically the 10 installed analog cameras and the control monitors. Omnitech, an Axis Communications partner, deployed the centralized video management application and recommended combining the installed base of analog cameras with Axis video servers to convert the video feeds into digital format. The feeds would then be transported over the existing IT network.

30 new analog cameras were connected to AXIS 241S/Q Video Encoders. AXIS 292 Network Video Decoders were also used to convert the digital streams back into analog signals, thereby providing images to the existing analog monitors. This option made it possible to use the existing IT network to transport video streams from zones that were initially not covered by the CCTV network.

The integration phase was rapid and the video surveillance system was operational within three months. Quite pleased with the ease of deployment, the Technical Department staff performed the installation themselves, with the assistance of Omnitech for system implementation. The deployment took place progressively, zone by zone, interconnecting groups of cameras one by one.

Enjoying all the benefits of network video using analog cameras

The Maintenance Department found many advantages in the system now deployed. In complete compliance with the required norms, the system is totally centralized and recordings are made to a single storage server. Password-protected images are accessible over the network from any secured workstation. Recordings are triggered automatically 10 to 15 seconds before an incident, using the video server cache memory.

Search for recordings when there is a need for identification is made easier. With the analog system, the entire length of the recorded tape had to be read using a video tape recorder. With the SEAL software developed by Omnitech, searches are now easily conducted. Furthermore, this video management tool defines all alert scenarios based on events and alarms recorded in real-time onto a central database.

Planning future applications

Biarritz Airport is considering expanding its video surveillance system so that it can further offer the capabilities of a genuine evaluation and control tool. Management has already decided to expand its base of cameras to cover two other zones: the area restricted to personnel to monitor baggage carriage, maintenance, and conveyors; and the operations area to view passenger flows, and assist the airport's operations personnel.

Furthermore, the airport is considering proposed changes to the access control system, which include integrating this system into the video surveillance system. The goal is to combine video recording with verification of entries and exits.

It took only a few months for Biarritz Airport to deploy an efficient and future-proof video surveillance system while protecting its previous investments thanks to the use of Axis network video technology. The system now in place is able to efficiently respond to current and future security requirements for the passengers it welcomes, its personnel, and its infrastructures.

