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Liberty Properties is working with Axis Communications to upgrade IP surveillance systems as part of an investment in security technology at Sandton City.

Willem Visser, property risk manager at Liberty Properties, says the upgrade was necessary due to the high mall robberies that have been going on for years, and last year grew to an extent that terrified consumers at large.

In August 2009, eight malls in South Africa were "hit" in one week, smashing their reputations as safe havens as armed gangs moved through the hallways, shooting at shoppers. Shopping centre owners and managing companies had no alternative but to look for security solutions to protect not only their investment but also ensure the safety of retailers, consumers and employees.

In 2007, Sandton City started upgrading its surveillance system to IP surveillance and Axis Communications, the system suppliers and partners in the project, installed the total solution at Sandton City. The project team worked through a process of training and installing the necessary cables and cameras which was completed in February 2009 at a cost of R18-million. A total 672 cameras have been installed in the mall inside and outside.

The installation by Axis included a wide range of their products, including the Axis 210A, Axis 211, Axis 211M and Axis P3301 network cameras, for the hallways, shops and parking. The company also installed the Axis 216M/FD Megapixel Dome for the ATMs, and the Axis 232D, 233D, 221 and 209FD for all elevators and infrared cameras outside.