

New surveillance system in Slaný city reduces crime rate and increases number of solved criminal acts.

Network camera surveillance systems are becoming more popular.



Organization:

Slaný city and municipal police

Location:

Czech Republic

Industry segment:

City surveillance

Application:

Safety and security, law enforcement

Axis partner:

Jirků A-Z s.r.o. (JAZ)
Kladno, Milestone

Mission

The city of Slaný has demonstrated interest in modernization of an obsolete analog surveillance system. With regard to the still functional analogue technology, in the first stage there was interest in updating the system with several Axis IP cameras with a vision for gradual complete digitalization of the entire system. The objective is increased security and quality of both surveillance and recorded materials, which can prove criminal acts and reduce the crime rate.

Solution

In the year 2006, a decision was made to innovate an analog surveillance system that had been in operation in Slaný since 1999. Financial resources from funding were used, which enabled building a surveillance site and installation of the first two digital points in key areas of the city. Since then, both the analog and digital system have worked in unison. A city administration decision will see gradual digitalization take place as the analog system ceases to work.

Result

The city of Slaný's surveillance system is quite complex due to the parallel operation of both analog and digital technology. Thus far there are a total of 10 IP cameras from the AXIS Q17 and AXIS Q60 Network Camera Series. The analog cameras that are still in use will gradually be replaced by Axis network cameras. A surveillance system is currently being prepared for monitoring sports facilities, which will include the use of AXIS Q6000-E Network Cameras for the overall view of the athletic stadium, aqua park, ice stadium and football stadium. AXIS Q6045-E Network Cameras will be used for detailed focusing in these locations. An AXIS M7016 Video Encoder, which enables the conversion of existing analog camera signals to a digital format, is also part of the surveillance system.

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Radovan Jirků, JAZ Kladno.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained – Axis cameras playing principal role

As this was the first installation of an IP surveillance system within a city for the system integrator, the company was aware of a certain risk. “After experience from other smaller projects, we have unambiguously chosen Axis cameras, because from our point of view they are the best,” says Radovan Jirků, executive of JAZ Kladno. The system supplier responded to an inquiry from Slaný city about camera innovation and the enhanced possibilities the IP-based platform offers when compared to the original analog system. The cameras monitor crossings in the city, streets, car parks and public areas. Analog cameras that are still in use will gradually be replaced by Axis network cameras. “We have tested several types of cameras, of which the Axis brand fared very well. Axis was the first to start with IP cameras, which induces the greatest confidence in us,” Jirků added.

Cameras monitor extensive areas of sports facilities both overview and in detail

A surveillance system is currently being prepared for the monitoring of sports facilities, which will include AXIS Q6000-E Network Cameras. “These cameras are able to cover the overall view of an athletic stadium, aqua park, ice and football stadium,” clarified Jirků, while additional AXIS Q6045-E Network Cameras are able to provide better focus on a selected detail. In the future it is envisaged to use automation and the cameras’ intelligent functions. Thus far there is, e.g., a private zone masking mode being used for zones that must not be monitored according to the Office for Personal Data Protection. In the case of a project for the municipal police in Slaný, there is no software layer on the camera level (ACAP) being used. Milestone technology serves as software for work and management of video content.

City acts upon approved digitalization plan

Today in Slaný, there remain 6 functioning analog cameras awaiting modernization alongside the Axis digital IP cameras. The gradual objective is that the whole chain will be based on Axis IP cameras.

“The best instrument of crime prevention for us is a quality surveillance system,” said Ludovít Šikorský from the Municipal Office in Slaný. Aside from the surveillance system, the recording system is also being digitised, allowing better quality material processing and longer storage of video records. “Currently, we have 24 of 28 days covered. Previously, there was only seven days worth of recording, which had not been enough,” clarified Šikorský.

Crime rate drops thanks to surveillance system

The long-term statistics within the Slaný territory from the surveillance system reveal that the number of offenses is declining. “After deployment of the surveillance, the crime rate has dropped and detection has increased,” said Martin Andrš, Chief Officer of the Municipal Police of Slaný. However, as the local people realize, cameras are not almighty. Even if they are able to speed up the resolution of various critical events, there must always be a human and their personal intervention in the end. Confidence in the benefits of the surveillance system keeps growing. There was even a case where one citizen was against deployment of the surveillance system in a city street, but changed his opinion after he became a victim of a holdup. At that time the offender was disclosed by the cameras.

State-of-the-art

The surveillance system in Slaný utilizes modern technologies; some distributions are implemented using optical networks. The oldest parts use cables, but most cameras centrally communicate wirelessly. Thanks to digital technologies, there was also a huge reduction of the individual camera points (with regard to device volumes) compared to the original analogue solution. Image quality has also improved, and thanks to zoom and optional auxiliary lighting, the limits of the surveillance system continue growing.

