

Lighting up the power grid with Axis.

Axis network cameras help Midwest gas and electric company keep its vehicles, machinery and offices secure.



Organization:
KS Energy Services

Location:
New Berlin, Wisconsin,
USA

Industry segment:
Critical infrastructure

Application:
Property protection, safety
and security

Mission

Growing over the last 10 years to a company of over 1,000 employees, KS Energy Services relocated its home base to a new office site that required a deeper look at a security system beyond its old and outdated analog cameras. The company dealt with issues like poor image quality, lack of scalability, bulky user interfaces, video exporting issues among a laundry list of problems. With highly valuable vehicles and equipment on site, it was important for the company to determine a new solution.

Solution

KS Energy picked a complete end-to-end Axis solution, selecting a recorder, software and cameras from the Axis portfolio to provide coverage across its new facilities. Deploying a set of fixed bullet-style cameras with low and varying light capabilities and outdoor enclosures, the company brought clarity and scalability to a system nothing like they had before.

With the rack server and preconfigured hardware from Axis, it was simple for IT to pull the entire system onto the office's preexisting network.

Result

The company has so far only pinpointed incidents through the cameras like minor bumps in the parking lot and thankfully nothing of highly serious nature. The ease of use has staff already planning out future deployments at the company's other offices and remote sites, plus further points at headquarters. As expected, KS Energy was able to implement this network camera solution, allow it to record 24/7 and use it as needed without any problems along the way.

“The key for us was to put something in place that allows us to ‘set it and forget it.’ And that’s how it’s been with the Axis recorder, software and cameras. We have not had any problems whatsoever.”

Tony Brzoskowski, IT Director, KS Energy Services.

Power boost

A recognized leader in the Midwest for its work in underground gas and electric infrastructure, KS Energy Services is a consistently growing company that serves customers and sites across four states. With eight diverse offices, KS Energy’s headquarters is in New Berlin, Wis., where its new multi-building, multi-acre facility is situated. The company’s outdated legacy analog cameras were already proving to be mediocre, but the new office and subsequent lots needed more than just the eight camera maximum that the system could handle.

Seeking a reactive monitoring tool for its fleet of vehicles and machinery plus the interior of multiple buildings, KS Energy made the transition to an Axis camera system knowing all of the benefits that it would provide. The basic requirements were high-resolution video, coverage of large areas of operation and mobile access for executives out on the road.

“Axis cameras are easier to install and could use our pre-existing POE infrastructure from our VoIP system,” explained Tony Brzoskowski, IT Director at KS Energy Services. “You can only do so much on those old cameras. I deployed an Axis solution in a different setting a couple years ago and from there, I’ve never had a bad experience. I wanted to take that experience and bring it to KS Energy.”

Set it and forget it

KS Energy utilizes 16 Axis network cameras across the property, both on the interior of buildings and surrounding areas outdoors. Brzoskowski selected an end-to-end Axis solution, choosing to integrate AXIS P1435-LE Network Cameras onto an AXIS Camera Station S1032 Recorder. AXIS S1032 is a rack server preloaded with AXIS Camera Station video management software out-of-the-box.

“It’s been just what we needed,” Brzoskowski said. “We popped it right into our current working environment with ease. AXIS Camera Station provides an excellent ability to allow executives to have live access and permission to review footage without having to worry about control over the server itself.”

AXIS P1435-LEs give KS Energy a dynamic camera that can serve a role in multiple diverse environments. Light-finder technology and Wide Dynamic Range (WDR) along with an outdoor-ready enclosure allow the cameras to function optimally both indoors and out while also pulling a strong image regardless of lighting conditions with built-in IR LEDs.

“We were so impressed with the built-in IR illuminators,” Brzoskowski described. “Without any added effort we can go and get strong clarity in images at night at lengthy distances.”

Axis’ Zipstream technology on board also provides an added layer of compression that gives the company broader storage capabilities.

Axis from top to bottom

With the new office secured by cameras and the weld and mechanical shops both covered by cameras inside and out, KS Energy’s primary concern shifts to its extensive lot with stored vehicles, generators, trucks and other heavy machinery. With cameras deployed on the sides of buildings, staff manages to obtain a clear image over the 100-meter span out to the vehicles and equipment. The primary concern for the company is to guarantee evidence for law enforcement and insurance claims in case of theft, damage or trespassing.

With offices in Chicago, Cincinnati and Green Bay, Wis., among others, KS Energy has plans for a selection of future deployments both in those spaces and at remote sites. The hurdle it faces now is how to offload data onto the main network. Beyond that, the company would like to integrate the cameras with its current door lock system and expand operations to cover multiple parts rooms at the facility.

