

Axis cameras contribute to a more transparent town hall environment.

The city of Prostějov finds solution for streaming videos from council meetings.



Organization:
Municipal Authority of
Prostějov City

Location:
Czech Republic

Industry segment:
Government

Application:
Broadcasting

Axis partner:
Mediawork s.r.o.

Mission

The local authority in Prostějov decided to heed the demand of citizens for greater transparency and broadcasting, and announced a tender procedure for a project concerning live streaming of all important council meetings. The installation entailed a number of issues, such as where to place the cameras in the listed building's interior.

Solution

Mediawork, which has been providing video broadcasts of council meetings since 2008 when they still worked with analog technology, served the needs of Prostějov city council by employing their own PUBLICSTREAM® system which utilizes modern Axis IP dome network cameras and the advantage of a fully open API. This approach enabled the creation of a unique solution that combines top-quality image with the intelligent features of IP cameras.

Result

Mediawork installed two AXIS P5534 Network Dome Cameras for the purpose of live Internet broadcasting. The solution enabled coverage of the entire designated area with the possibility to record voting representatives, speakers and top executives seated opposite the city without disrupting the aesthetics of the historic hall. This could be done with the help of cameras designed to be supplied directly through the UTP cable without the need of any other camera-power source. The unique solution for the live council broadcasts combines an image with fully synchronized sound, but also with voting results on the screens of voting machines.

“PUBLICSTREAM® has not only provided access for general public to the municipal meetings, but it has also raised city hall transparency in a very convenient way for people and helped us to rank among the technological leaders in this regard.”

RNDr. Alena Rašková, Mayor of Prostějov.

Hi-tech solution in harmony with history

The solution chosen for Prostějov council includes two inconspicuous AXIS P5534 Network Dome Cameras, which are supplied directly through a standard UTP data cable connected to the camera. Thanks to the absence of a separate cable, which would have to be connected to an independent power supply, there is no need for extra space and, what is more, the hidden cables in the historic conference hall neither disturb the city council members and representatives, nor visitors from general public, and were not even opposed by the preservationists. The high-quality light characteristics and wide-angle lens only enhance images of the beautiful features of Art-Nouveau meeting room.

Synergistic effect in the service of visual quality and comfort

The UTP cable is inconspicuously connected directly into a data switch interconnecting both cameras with the controlling computer unit. The computer unit then uses PUBLICSTREAM® – lkam, a specially developed software to steer, zoom and control the camera lighting, which of course can also be controlled manually. The software also works with another application developed for the purpose of council streaming called PUBLICSTREAM® – Režisér (director). It can connect itself to each voting machine and get important information to decide how it will further proceed with video streaming, as does a human director in an editing room. The director can then precisely identify the speaker (the monitor displays their name), and can also follow, e.g. the interim results of voting. The director is able to recognize the moment when people watch the voting results and switches the video to the voting screen.

The software can, again, manage the entire process automatically without human intervention. The only thing that is not a part of the PUBLICSTREAM® solution and is received from an external source is the actual sound from the hall. It is picked up on an audio mixing device and streamed from various conference facilities equipped with microphones. As the sound stream is synchronized with the image, the viewer perceives it as if they were personally in the meeting room.

Real-time streaming, security and opportunity to watch the footage

Actual streaming is carried out by vMix, an editing and broadcast application controlled by Mediawork through their own API. It aggregates individual streams from all the cameras and the voting machine, cuts them and transmits them. The meeting footage is then not only broadcast but also stored and archived in the city's publicly accessible storage center, where it can be accessed by journalists and the public. All footage is fully indexed, so it is easy to find individual key passages and provide the public with unsurpassed comfort with which other commonly used unindexed audio and traditional notes from meetings simply cannot compare. A separate chapter then represents algorithms for finished editing that ensures the protection of sensitive personal data required by the personal data protection authority.

