

Valderrobres Castle.

Multi-purpose video surveillance at the service of cultural heritage.



Organization:
Valderrobres Town Hall

Location:
Teruel, Spain

Industry segment:
Government

Application:
Safety and security,
web broadcasting

Axis partner:
BGSoft

Mission

The small village of Valderrobres (about 2000 inhabitants) in Teruel, Spain, is framed within the Matarraña region, and is one of the most charming and authentic urban arrays of the Autonomous Community of Aragon. It would be impossible to think of Valderrobres without the impressiveness of its castle, whose image has become the most recognizable feature of all. It is an irregular hexagon with straight walls of unequal size. Situated in the town's highlands, it overlooks the Matarraña river and the steps of the nearby town of Beceite. Constructed of ashlar stone, it occupies a total area of 1,000 m².

It was declared a National Monument in 1931, but rebuilding work did not start until 1977, and mostly during 1982 and 1983, when vaults and soil were recovered from a great portion of the old palace. Since 1989, and thanks to an agreement with the City of Valderrobres, the Teruel museum displays seasonal artistic and cultural exhibitions.

Moreover, during the summer, its premises host musical and theatrical performances, and one of the most remarkable cultural festivals takes place in there: the Castle Festival, dedicated since 2008 to contemporary dance.

Today, the castle of Valderrobres continues to seek its former glory, having become a space for culture, looking to the future by recalling its long past. The Town Hall was looking for ideas to take this a step further and intended to rely on new technologies to search for a video system that would allow them to track castle visits and broadcast the castle's cultural and leisure activities.

"Our level of commitment to the customers mandates that we always provide the highest quality products for our solutions. In this sense, Axis Communications is the perfect partner to fulfill this requirement."

Jesus Baths, Manager, BGSoft.

Solution

SBGSoft, a Catalan company that has extensive experience in the field of computer engineering, presented a proposal to the City of Valderrobres. The use of network cameras was proposed to consolidate security with cultural promotion activities, giving people who visit the Town Hall's website the opportunity to conduct virtual visits of the castle and to see live broadcasts of the events that are held there.

The installation consists of five AXIS 213 PTZ Network Cameras located in different rooms of the castle, connected to an IP network. For the network installation, PLC (Power Line Communications) devices were used. They make it possible to convert a standard electrical grid into an IP data network that also supplies power.

Indoors, the cameras are provided with an audio module to collect the sound from the halls. This system is also supported by a highly sensitive microphone in the performance hall, where the theater and dance productions take place. The outdoor cameras required protective housings and an independent heating and ventilation system due to the extreme temperatures of the area.

The images collected by the cameras are recorded and stored in the castle's monitoring center. From there, they are displayed through monitors, and managed using the video management software developed by BGSoft; this software is capable of recording the video signal from any of the cameras and playing or deleting previously recorded videos.

Result

Implementing this type of installation in a National Monument under the direct supervision of the Artistic Patrimony Administration, required being very careful about the details. For that reason and to maintain continued harmony with the surroundings of the castle, the cameras were mounted on wooden supports.

For the Town Hall's officials, this IP video system represents a unique opportunity to promote the castle and the activities it hosts, as well as provides optimal surveillance. The castle's video system helps the Town Hall to develop one of the most important activities in the region, tourism, which along with agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of income for Valderrobres.

"This system marks the joining of two worlds that are far apart in time: the medieval era and the information society, and it is a clear example of the use of information technology to promote our heritage and the artistic and cultural activities in our region," said Joaquín Lozano, City Councilman of Culture of Valderrobres.

About BGSoft

BGSoft has operated since 1994 with highly qualified personnel and has over 10 years of experience in the field of engineering and computer science. They are pioneers in the development of programs for public transport vending. This experience, together with continued research and development, enables them to offer the best means to create industrial multimedia solutions with peripheral control and provide the best technical advice. Additionally, they have a renewed range of information points with touch screens that offer a sophisticated Internet browser as an option for touch screens including a virtual keyboard. They also develop prototypes and small series of data points for auto vending machines tailored to customer needs, in tight timeframes and at reasonable cost.



Ayuntamiento de Valderrobres

