

## Axis megapixel network cameras provide food safety and security.

Osaka Izumi Co-operative Society uses megapixel video footage to support food safety and quality program in distribution center.



Organization:  
Osaka Izumi  
Co-operative Society

Location:  
Sakai, Osaka Prefecture,  
Japan

Industry segment:  
Retail

Application:  
Surveillance in food  
distribution center

Axis partners:  
Panasonic Electric Works  
Networks Co., Ltd.,  
Javatel Inc.

### Mission

Established in 1974, Osaka Izumi Co-operative Society has grown into one of the largest cooperative societies in Japan, covering the city of Sakai as well as the southern part of Osaka prefecture. With an annual turnover of over 40 billion yen in the core cooperative purchasing business (food delivery service to individuals and groups), they deliver a wide variety of foods to consumers.

The cooperative society was founded on a commitment to product quality. Amid the spate of food-related accidents and incidents in recent years, they have created a comprehensive safety system that includes measures for the distribution process as well as the manufacturing process. With the introduction of the Food Safety Program in April 2009, the task was to create a system for the distribution center to enable the "safe delivery of products of assured quality".

### Solution

In view of the size of the distribution center, the prioritized requirement was for each camera to cover a wide area. Video management software, a user-friendly management system that would allow easy image retrieval, analysis and verification in the event of the occurrence of any problems were requested.

In the course of the study, Izumi Co-op found that the requirements were met by a combination of Axis Communications' wide selection of megapixel network cameras and H.264-compatible products and Javatel's Omnicast® network video management software (developed by Genetec of Canada) with its flexible operation and high reliability. Panasonic Electric Works Networks, which offers PoE switches and advanced network-related technology, was put in charge of the system installation, consisting of 41 network cameras, including the AXIS 211M and AXIS P3301, and an application server.

"The quality of the megapixel images and the operation of the system are excellent. This is made possible by the network cameras."

Mr. Kitano, Assistant Manager, General Affairs Group, Personnel and Administration Dept., Osaka Izumi Co-operative Society.

## Result

At the distribution center, delivery vehicles and center employees come and go throughout the day and night. Because of the frequent traffic, it was difficult to partition off an area completely with walls and doors like an office or to keep track of the movement of personnel. The camera recordings, along with the fact of the installation being well-known among the staff, had the effect of enhancing employees' awareness of quality of work while at the same time preventing unauthorized access and other such problems.

## Wide-area surveillance and detailed identification equals efficiency

The distribution center is so large that it was impossible to know what was happening where. As it was necessary to cover a wide area and, if necessary, to specify suspect locations for more detailed identification and analysis, Axis megapixel cameras were installed on the picking line and in the product loading and unloading area. Network cameras with VGA size image in H.264/MPEG-4 format were installed in the aisles and office area to reduce the bandwidths on network, thereby providing a balanced network load overall.

All the cameras are recorded on one server and live images are constantly displayed at three locations in the center. All live and recorded images can be manipulated via the network, allowing, if necessary, images to be searched and displayed from the computer monitors of the person in charge. In addition to integrated control of several cameras, the target image can be located straightaway using motion search which allows synchronized display of multiple camera images.

## Utilizing network cameras as part of food defense

With food safety coming under increasing scrutiny, Osaka Izumi Co-operative Society is making every effort to promote "food defense". Conventional food safety focused on safety and quality control at the production and manufacturing stage. Food defense means protection from intentional acts of contamination or

tampering with food by a third party. In other words, importance is placed on comprehensive security throughout the flow from food production and manufacturing to distribution and consumption. The Food Safety Program was fully implemented in April 2009 and as part of the efforts, Izumi Co-op aims to ensure and enhance "delivery quality" to customers using network cameras.

By publicizing this fact, the company aims to raise awareness of food defense among all the employees who handle food in the distribution center.

## Future expansion and integration

"As one of the functions of the network camera system, we are looking at integrating with the access control system. We are also considering expanding the system and installing network cameras in the product inspection center and in stores," said Mr. Kitano, Assistant Manager, Osaka Izumi Cooperative Society.

As the installed system is based on verification by images, more accurate information control will be necessary in the future to integrate with the access control system.

There will also be opportunities to maximize the benefits of the network video system not just in the area of safety, but in information disclosure, using high quality images to convey information, and in-store installations.

"We are working on using the system not only in the area of safety, but in actual distribution operations, using camera images to improve traffic line and enhance efficiency," said Mr. Mihara, General Manager, Business Management Division, Business Headquarters, Osaka Izumi Cooperative Society.

The system brought into view employee movement in the distribution center. The work situation in each area can be grasped at a glance from the camera images. Using the new video information, the company's aim is to improve operations and thus further enhance delivery quality while ensuring customer safety.



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Osaka Izumi Co-operative Society  
<http://izumi.coop/>

**Panasonic**  
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Panasonic Electric Works Networks Co. Ltd.  
<http://group.panasonic-denko.co.jp/pewjnw/>



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