

California port cruises to smart security with Axis.

Port of San Diego secures revitalized waterfront with intelligent surveillance system that maintains area's artistic appearance.



Organization:

Port of San Diego

Location:

San Diego, California, USA

Industry segment:

Transportation

Application:

Safety and security,
remote monitoring

Axis partners:

Verotek Systems, Genetec

Mission

For many years, the Port of San Diego has been collaborating with the city to redevelop its waterfront area. The project aims to create an attractive public space to greet visitors arriving to the city on cruise ships. However, the Port is also a center for commercial shipping and is close to the largest US Naval base on the West Coast. To protect this sensitive gateway to the country, the Port needed an effective surveillance system that would blend in with the overall design of the new construction.

Solution

Axis partner and systems integrator Verotek recommended Axis PTZ (pan/tilt/zoom) network cameras to monitor the waterfront. The security solution is unobtrusive and blends in well with the environment. The cameras maintain high functionality while remaining visually appealing.

The Port connected the cameras to their existing surveillance system, which features over 100 other Axis cameras.

Result

With HDTV image quality and 30x optical zoom, the Port can capture detailed video over a wide area. Intelligent features such as automatic defog and highlight compensation help mitigate environmental factors that may obscure the video. The outdoor-rated housing will keep the cameras operating through the punishing ocean weather and ensure the Port can protect visitors for years to come.

“The cameras will provide a heightened level of security for both the new promenade and the cruise ships. They will allow us to observe any threats that may be coming from the land or the water.”

Thomas Lockwood, Infrastructure Supervisor, Port of San Diego.

Building a beautiful and secure waterfront

The Port of San Diego is an active transportation hub that receives over 100 cruise ship visits each year. For more than a decade, the Port has been working with city officials to revitalize the downtown waterfront area where cruise ships dock. Dubbed the “North Embarcadero Visionary Plan,” the team built a mile-long promenade and esplanade lined with jacarandas trees, art installations and open-air pavilions. However, the Port is also a highly sensitive security zone, receiving a constant stream of commercial shipping traffic and sharing San Diego Bay with the largest US Naval base on the West Coast. Because of this, it needed to install a robust surveillance system that would not affect the aesthetic appeal of the new development.

Installing comprehensive, yet unobtrusive surveillance

Systems integrator and Axis partner Verotek recommended high definition AXIS Q6045-E PTZ Network Cameras, which the Port uses in other applications throughout its jurisdiction. Because the cameras are IP-based, Verotek could take advantage of flexible installation options to blend the cameras in with the design work.

“We wanted cameras that could observe the area while being visually unobtrusive,” said Tom Lockwood, Infrastructure Supervisor, Port of San Diego. “This is a public space, and we don’t want to be in your face. We want to have cameras that look like they are part and parcel of the decor.”

The Verotek team installed a selection of cameras in the area, and painted the housings to match the signage. In certain spots, they integrated cameras with AXIS T94A01L Recessed mounts, meant to make the cameras unobtrusive and blend in well with the environment.

“Now, all the public is seeing is the bottom of a smoked dome,” Lockwood said.

Protecting the Port through sun and storm

The Port connected the new cameras directly to its existing video surveillance system, where it can access footage if needed in case of an incident. The Port hopes the new development will bustle with activity, and it will rely on the cameras’ long range viewing capabilities to effectively keep the entire area safeguarded. Port security can also use the level of detail provided by high definition video to conduct thorough investigations should an incident occur.

“We are viewing a general area hundreds of feet across. The large pixel density helps us identify small details if we have to zoom into the video after the fact,” Lockwood said.

As the area is along the waterfront, the intelligent features of the cameras will combat environmental factors that may obscure the video or damage the cameras. The automatic defog cuts through the thick marine layer that hangs in the evening air, and highlight compensation masks headlights from vehicles driving up and down the pier. The cameras’ outdoor environmental use integrated heaters and a controlled internal environment to ensure they survive in the harsh ocean weather.

“We have a camera in close proximity to the waterfront that does not show any kind of environmental damage,” said Jim Dinneen, System Design and Installation Technician at Verotek. “It has been installed for five years, but you couldn’t tell how long it has been out there.”



Genetec