Axis cameras transition Scottish university to integrated solution.

Axis partner Boston Networks specified Axis cameras when upgrading the University of the West of Scotland's security systems.

Organization:
University of the West of Scotland

Location:
Ayr, Paisley, Scotland, UK

Industry segment:
Education

Application:
Safety and security

Axis partner:
Boston Networks, Milestone

Mission

The University of the West of Scotland (UWS) is one of Scotland's largest modern universities. It includes four campuses, spread across Scotland, including: Ayr, Dumfries, Hamilton and Paisley. With each campus featuring a number of disparate security systems, the university specified a centralised approach to the control and maintenance of its entire security estate through installation of integrated IP network cameras. The ability to remotely, centrally manage and share video images easily was essential across such a large site.

Solution

Axis partner Boston Networks designed and implemented a high performing IP-based surveillance solution, featuring HD-quality footage and a powerful video management interface across UWS' estate.

The state-of-the-art solution utilised over 200 Axis network cameras located across the Ayr and Paisley campus sites, including high-traffic areas, such as hallways and corridors; secure zones, such as campus libraries; and strategic points, such as building exits and entrances. The existing platforms were then wholly upgraded to a single Milestone XProtect® Expert platform.

Result

The advanced Axis IP cameras and Milestone XProtect® Expert open platform IP VMS provides HD quality footage and a powerful management interface to effectively control UWS's multi-campus surveillance in a single, uniformed system.

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"This was a challenging project to work on but thanks to the support from Axis and our combined approach, it has delivered great benefits for the university. It now has a state-of-the-art, unified surveillance solution that is flexible enough to adapt with the fluid university environment."

Hugh Hamill, Director of Fire and Security at Boston Networks.

A centralised approach to a disparate problem

The University of the West of Scotland (UWS) is one of Scotland's largest modern universities, providing relevant, high quality, inclusive higher education, innovative and useful research. With campuses in Ayr, Dumfries, Hamilton and Paisley, the university is organised into eight academic schools and delivers a range of degree, Masters and research programmes.

With four campuses across the west coast of Scotland, all running disparate security systems, UWS recognised that a centralised approach to the control and maintenance of its entire security estate would create a more effective solution and safer campuses. UWS had already begun the migration of its current infrastructure, to a more streamlined IP CCTV solution, resulting in multiple variations of Milestone Video Management System's (VMS) which were not yet centralised.

Axis partner Boston Networks designed and implemented a high performing IP-based surveillance solution, featuring HD-quality footage and a powerful video management interface across UWS' estate. The bespoke solution combined over 200 Axis network cameras and Milestone XProtect® Expert open platform IP VMS software.

Particularly challenging environment

Working closely with Axis and the UWS security team, Hugh Hamill, Director of Fire and Security at Boston Networks, headed up the team to design, deploy and maintain the university's entire security estate. He explained: "We were dealing with a particularly challenging environment for this project – large outdoor expanses that needed to be covered in high definition, monitoring people's movement between buildings, and notoriously difficult to secure, multi-use buildings." In addition, Boston Networks was tasked with the migration and integration of over 200 IP security cameras, and consolidating the university's existing video management software to one centralised monitoring station.

The final installation design featured over one hundred AXIS M3203, AXIS P3344 and AXIS P1344 Network

Cameras located across the Ayr and Paisley campus sites, including high-traffic areas, such as hallways and corridors; secure zones, such as campus libraries; and strategic points, such as building exits and entrances. The existing platforms were then wholly upgraded to a single Milestone XProtect® Expert platform.

Multi-campus surveillance in a single, uniformed system

In line with the university's aims, the integrated solution transitioned UWS to one cohesive control platform, featuring multi-live streaming, remote accessibility and superior image quality – all supported and maintained 24/7 by Boston Networks. The resulting solution is a highly robust, stable and truly state-of-the-art surveillance framework.

Commenting on use of Axis cameras throughout the installation, Hugh Hamill added: "As an Axis partner, we regularly recommend Axis camera installations because of their reliability, high-spec performance and cost efficiency. Axis is the undisputed industry leader in network surveillance, so they're naturally our go-to resource for IP installations. The fact that their cameras integrate so seamlessly with Milestone VMS was also a crucial factor in this project as it allowed us to create real synergy across the entire estate."

The new solution enables seamless command centre control and benefits from edge storage support, failover recording servers and redundant management servers to ensure recordings are never interrupted and access to the system is always maintained. Discussions are now underway to extend the Axis camera converge to the Hamilton and Dumfries campuses.

Hugh concluded: "This was a challenging project to work on but thanks to the support from Axis and our combined approach, it has delivered great benefits for the university. It now has a future-proof, unified surveillance solution that is flexible enough to adapt with the fluid university environment. It's been so successful that the university may explore further expansion and integration with other building management systems."

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