

Paving the way to network surveillance.

Smithtown Highway Department guards municipal gas pumps and road equipment with Axis network cameras.



Organization:
Smithtown Department
of Public Safety

Location:
Long Island, New York,
USA

Industry segment:
Government

Application:
Safety and security,
remote monitoring

Axis partners:
A+ Technology Solutions,
IPVideo Corp.

Mission

The Smithtown Department of Public Safety needed more up-to-date surveillance technology to better monitor the vast expanse of its Highway Department yard. Public Safety's Request for Proposal asked vendors to recommend a security system that would serve as a high profile deterrent to theft and negligence. The system needed to provide sufficient image clarity to help officials apprehend violators and address safety issues. And it had to be easy for non-technical staff to use.

Solution

A+ Technology Solutions, a Bay Shore, NY-based security integration firm and Axis partner, designed and installed a surveillance solution that integrated a dozen Axis network cameras that wirelessly transmit images to the yard's administrative building. The video is then sent over a virtual private network to the Department of Public Safety's Communications Center where staff can remotely manipulate the cameras, monitor activity live as well as review archive footage through an intuitive video management system from IPVideo Corporation.

The yard foreman can also view specific network cameras trained on the gas pumps, yard entrances and exits, as well as the main building. This configuration gives the Department of Public Safety overarching control of the municipal facility, while giving onsite staff the tools to observe and react quickly to incidents as they unfold.

Result

Smithtown's Department of Public Safety now monitors yard personnel and vehicles around-the-clock. Officers can quickly and easily identify vehicles and individual faces because the high-resolution images maintain their clarity even while zooming in for a close-up view. The surveillance system has encouraged truckers and yard personnel to driving more slowly through the yard and approaching the gas pumps more carefully.

"With our Axis network cameras monitoring activity, we're better able to detect and deter criminal activity and address safety issues in the Smithtown Highway Department yard."

Chief John Valentine, Director Smithtown Department of Public Safety. New York.

Why digital proved more affordable

Though all the buildings in the Highway Department yard were wired for electricity, only the main building had network connectivity. To avoid expensive and disruptive trenching for cable, A+ Technology Solutions mounted the Axis network cameras on the outlying structures and linked them through a wireless network so they could stream their video back to the administrative office.

A+ Technology also installed a secure virtual private network connection from the yard's network video recording system in the administrative building to the Department of Public Safety's Communication Center several miles away. This enables Public Safety officers to view and manipulate the Axis network cameras remotely as well as designate specific cameras that yard personnel can monitor locally.

"We're a municipality with a fixed budget," shares Chief Valentine. "So we were looking for the maximum coverage, with the best system, at a reasonable cost." According to Lieutenant Thomas Grosse, Park Ranger Division Supervisor for Smithtown Public Safety, A+ Technology was the only vendor to offer a network video solution and manage to creatively deliver superior technology for less cost than a comparable analog system.

Creating a bird's-eye view of the yard

To ensure maximum coverage, A+ Technology deployed a mix of AXIS 225FD Fixed Dome Network Cameras and AXIS 214 PTZ Network Cameras throughout the yard. They mounted the network cameras on the supply sheds, garages, guard stations and gas pumps to give Public Safety officers a bird's-eye view of the yard. The vandal-resistant outdoor cameras provide the critical optical zoom and automatic day/night operation needed in a bustling Highway Department depot housing snow plows, sanders, road pavers and other municipal vehicles.

A+ Technology Solutions also installed a DynaView video management system from IPVideo, an Axis Application Development Partner (ADP), to simplify operations and accommodate future expansion of the surveillance network.

The DynaView system can integrate access control and building management technology as well as video analytics should Smithtown decide to add those capabilities to its network.

Flexibility to choose the appropriate response

Because the network surveillance system is viewed remotely as well as onsite, the configuration allows Public Safety personnel to more easily match the appropriate response to the incident being captured on video. "For instance, if we noticed a safety issue, like a car parked up on the curb near the gas pump," cites Chief Valentine, "we'd notify the supervisor or yard foreman and ask them to deal with the problem." For criminal activity or other more serious conditions, Public Safety would dispatch one of the Smithtown Department of Public Safety Park Rangers or Fire Marshals and also alert the Suffolk County Police Department or appropriate Fire Department.

Going all-network video surveillance citywide

Today, nine other locations in the north shore Long Island community are strictly analog surveillance systems: including several beaches and neighborhood parks, the marina and a few municipal buildings. But Lt. Grosse sees the move to all-network video as a definite goal for the town.

"The quality of a network video system over an analog system is like night and day," says Lieutenant Grosse. "We had no idea the difference was so vast until we made the transition at the Highway Department yard." Not only was the Department of Public Safety able to manipulate cameras remotely, they could affordably archive 30 days of video and easily retrieve images, as well as freeze frame and zoom in on a picture without losing clarity.

"We're really pleased with the results we've been seeing at the Highway Department yard," shares Chief Valentine. "Our future goal is to start upgrading as many sites as we can to the network video system and integrating them into our new Communications Center."

