Network video surveillance at Václav Havel Airport Prague.

Increased security for civil aviation, efficient crime prevention and enhanced operation control with Axis network cameras.

Organization:
Český Aeroholding, a.s. (Václav Havel Airport Prague)

Location:
Prague, Czech Republic

Industry segment:
Transportation

Application:
Safety and security

Axis partners:
Sieza s.r.o., Genetec

Mission

Ensuring greater security for passengers and using a uniform integrated solution to network video surveillance were the basic tasks for modernizing the camera systems of several extensive building complexes at Prague Ruzyně airport, which have been connected to one comprehensive system soon expected to contain more than 1500 cameras. The goal of this gradual reconstruction is to improve accessibility of data, to adapt the system to the complex conditions and various requirements of the airport's premises, and to build an entire system on one central platform.

Solution

The first step was to transfer the entire system to joint VMS Omnicast software from the company Genetec, which enabled simpler data access. The existing analog cameras were connected to the digital network with the aid of video encoders, and it was decided that only network cameras would be used in the future. AXIS P13 Network Camera Series were chosen as a reference.

Result

At least 50 IP cameras, which can be effortlessly integrated into Genetec's software-based system, have been installed over the last two years. The AXIS P13 Series, which reduces expenses during installation and produces a higher resolution picture, is a valued asset for the airport's operations and security departments.

AXIS
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> "The gradual integration of video network components is already bringing tangible results. Whether it is a question of simpler administration of the whole system, savings on future expansion, or the picture quality of the new IP cameras itself, it is clear to see that in our case network video surveillance is the way to go in the future."
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> Jan Douša, head of information security for the company Český Aeroholding.

How the camera colossus is being changed

The majority of Prague Airport's existing cameras were analog, and digital back-up and data retrieval at the time was managed using sophisticated, custom-made solutions from the late 1990s. At that time, in comparison with the analog system, IP video technology was too costly and inefficient. With the increasing number of cameras and the growing requirements of individual departments, however, the need to change to a uniform network platform, which would allow simpler data administration and options for expansion in the future was apparent. Connections via Omnicast software and the use of video encoders and Axis network cameras have proven to be the right choice.

Why IP video?

The basic reason for choosing the AXIS P13 Network Cameras as a reference model for the dissemination and innovation of the system lies in the technological advantages of IP videos, the most important of which are economy and picture quality. Rather than dozens of meters of coaxial and power cables covering the length of the airport buildings in order to connect analog cameras, a new IP camera need only be connected to the omnipresent data network, which also facilitates the power supply. While analog cameras have an aspect ratio of 4:3, that of network cameras is 16:9, thus providing much higher definition. In operation, the difference in the picture is literally visible at first glance.

A digital future

Cameras are essential for airport operations – they play the principle role in combatting illegal activities and criminals, and also serve as a preventative measure. Actual images from the IP cameras can be accessed by the police or security personnel and provide probative material for investigations. Digital cameras also open up new horizons in the field of picture analysis, which facilitates and increases the effectiveness of camera operators' work.