

Securing the finish line with Axis.

Axis network cameras play key role in safeguarding the city of Hartford during annual marathon.



Organization:

Eversource Hartford
Marathon and Half
Marathon (City of
Hartford)

Location: Hartford,
Connecticut, USA

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Safety and security

Axis partner:
Vulcan Security
Technologies, Milestone

Mission

With a population just under 125,000 in its city limits, the city of Hartford, Conn., prepares each October for its annual marathon and half marathon, a race run by over 14,000. When noting the attendees, sponsors and staff on hand, the crowd for such an event grows exponentially before the city's eyes on event day. For police, this is an opportunity to keep the city safe as usual for locals and visitors alike.

Solution

Under recommendations from Axis partner Vulcan Security, the Hartford Police Department implemented a limited string of cameras with practically limitless views. Multi-sensor cameras enabled law enforcement to keep eyes on a multitude of views while only needing to rely on a short list of technologies.

Result

The event cycled through without any major incidents. Aside from a couple of medical needs that were rapidly addressed, the city happily reported a smooth and happy race day. Their outlook beyond the marathon was very positive on the future of network video in the city due to the positive feedback and results they received from this one weekend alone with the system in use.

“We had a good eye in the sky that helped prevent us from having to deploy too many people. We only needed to deploy as necessary because of the great camera views, which is a lot easier for us to deal with when we can evaluate lesser concerns first over the cameras.”

Sergeant Johnmichael O'Hare, Hartford Police Department, Special Operations Group.

Keeping up with the pace

Lively with over 67,000 race participants, volunteers and spectators, the Eversource Hartford Marathon and Half Marathon brings a unique safety challenge to the city's police department year over year. Tasked with general surveillance of the downtown area on the day of the race, the department took action to keep Connecticut's capital city out of harm's way and focused on the great joy that is the annual 26.2-mile run.

Calling on Vulcan Security to help beef up video monitoring efforts in downtown Hartford, the department remained focused on a series of basic concerns that become amplified on the day of the event. Aside from the general safety of all those in the area, police worry about traffic issues and the wellbeing of runners, making sure that staff and resources are available in case of any medical emergencies.

Less is more

Streamed over the city's network, the Hartford PD implemented a series of Axis network cameras that allowed them clear views of specific regions. To begin, two AXIS Q6000-E PTZ Dome Network Cameras were deployed adjacent to the last quarter mile of the race and the finish line, equipped with AXIS Q6045-E PTZ Dome Network Cameras to extend visual reach.

“The integration between the AXIS Q6000-E and the AXIS Q6045-E was very helpful,” explained Tyler Cullen, Director of IT at Vulcan Security Technologies. “Having that ability to click on a static view then have the PTZ automatically track to that position was great for evaluating potential threats in the crowd.”

To accompany those, Vulcan specified multiple AXIS Q3505-VE Network Cameras in that area to provide HDTV views with the ability to run AXIS Digital Autotracking to further enhance efforts.

Lastly, a pair of AXIS Q3709-PVE Network Cameras were mounted on a truck in a gathering area, allowing police an easy connection to the happenings around many of the vendor booths in the nearby park.

First place results

Monitored through Milestone XProtect® Corporate, the Hartford PD used automatic guard tour on those Axis PTZ cameras to perform sweeps of crowds in both the grandstands and surrounding areas. The only cause for worry was a runner that fell over in the final third of the race. Multiple parties, however, caught the circumstance on camera and were able to order medical help immediately.

“It went off without a hitch,” remarked Sergeant Johnmichael O'Hare of Hartford Police Department's Special Operations Group. “We had a great view of inside, outside, the last quarter, last third of a mile. It was fantastic. It was deployable to our guys in the field through their smart phones and was an eye-opening experience for a lot of the commanders who had never seen anything like this.

Sergeant O'Hare commented that post-race discussions were solely positive among his team. Talk almost immediately moved to the use of these cameras, and potentially more, for general purposes year-round beyond this single event weekend.

“It's something that needed to be demonstrated for them to believe it could be done, but once they saw it, they were all blown away. It gave them an idea of what we're capable of in the future. Especially able to view feeds from wherever they were. Everybody was happy.”

