

Protecting one of the best places to live. Longmont, Colorado expands surveillance system city-wide to safeguard citizens and critical facilities.



Organization:
City of Longmont

Location:
Longmont, Colorado,
USA

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
City-wide surveillance

Axis partner:
Volpe Industries

Mission

Driven by the events of 9/11 and concerns for homeland defense, officials at Longmont, Colorado's water treatment facility decided that deploying a video surveillance system at the city's two plants would give citizens peace of mind that their critical public utility was secure. This was a critical first step in guarding the city's coveted reputation as one of Money Magazine's Top 100 Best Places to Live in the United States. With a network video solution, the city could leverage its existing network infrastructure, making it easy to add key at-risk sites and eventually create a city-wide surveillance system over multiple years without overtaxing its annual budget.

Solution

Volpe Industries, a Seekonk, MA-based leader in intelligent IP-based surveillance, designed and installed a complete security system using an array of indoor/outdoor network cameras from Axis Communications and DETEXI

Network Video Recorders (NVR) running Eagle Eye software. Staff at the water treatment plant uses the surveillance solution to constantly monitor the perimeters of the two facilities and visualize water supplies throughout the Longmont area. The video stream can also be securely accessed remotely at the police department's command center. Because of challenging terrain and other constraints in some areas, Volpe Industries deployed video streaming over a wireless network. This saved the municipality thousands of dollars in hard wiring costs. By coupling the Axis network cameras to the Volpe DETEXI NVR the city optimizes bandwidth consumption of the municipality's network without affecting the superior image quality of the recording stream.

"Once we successfully established the IP video solution from DETEXI and Axis, at the water treatment plant, business owners in Longmont realized how compelling surveillance video was for actively protecting their own places of business, staff, and visitors from any unforeseen accidents or incidents."

Christopher Volpe, President and CEO of Volpe Industries.

Result

Water treatment plant personnel can simultaneously monitor operations at the two plants instead of making the five-minute drive between the two facilities to ensure everything is operating correctly. Kurt Headrick, senior network analyst for the City of Longmont noted that since the water treatment plant surveillance system went live, his organization has been able to quickly respond to security issues and directly involve the police department in review of archive video from any of its security cameras. The system also allows Headrick to administer multiple sites from his own PC at his office in the Civic Center. "From a security perspective, this system has given us the critical visibility we need to maintain heightened security at both plants simultaneously," said Headrick. Volpe Industries has since added AXIS 214 PTZ Network Cameras to several critical potable water storage facilities as well.

Jumping on the security bandwagon

Nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, the small city of Longmont lies between two major metropolitan areas: Denver and Boulder, Colorado. The proximity to these urban influences added to the qualms of other Longmont institutions which began voicing a need for their own surveillance set-ups. The Longmont City Library, for instance, reported concerns about homeland security and transients loitering around the building. "They wanted to have a better handle on materials that were walking out the door," explained Headrick. "Even though you have to check items out, it is amazing how many people don't."

Library officials hired Volpe Industries to deploy an IP-Surveillance system for them that could be monitored by city officials from a central office. The solution used DETEXI software integrated with AXIS 216FD Fixed Dome Network Cameras placed in the stacks and hallways as well as around the building's perimeter. Camera selection was based on aesthetic design, ease of installation and the ability to operate using Power over Ethernet (PoE). With local and remote live monitoring in place, library staff now has a video record of all activity in and around the library during and after normal operating hours.

De facto standard for city-wide surveillance

Longmont continues to allocate part of its budget each year to adding more cameras throughout the city. Next to be integrated into the city-wide IP-Surveillance grid were the city's four recreational facilities. According to Headrick, the older CCTV system was literally falling apart. AXIS 214 PTZ (pan/tilt/zoom) and AXIS 216FD (fixed-dome) Network Cameras provide state-of-the-art monitoring options the city never had before.

The Safety and Justice building – which houses the police, fire, courts and probation departments as well as the municipal detention facility – was next on the Longmont's surveillance agenda. Volpe Industries deployed a combination of AXIS 214 PTZ and AXIS 216FD Network Cameras and AXIS 241QA Video Encoders. The encoders were used to convert existing analog CCTV cameras to IP-ready video. The placement of cameras in corridors and offices as well as the building's exterior and parking lot enabled staff to monitor the flow of people and cars in and around the building. A special intercom system – comprised of an external speaker/microphone system coupled to AXIS 211A Network Cameras with built-in intelligent audio – was installed in each detention cell. This enabled police officers to visually monitor and remotely conduct two-way voice communication with inmates.

"When people talk about city-wide surveillance systems, it's normally in the range of millions of dollars," said Christopher Volpe, president and CEO of Volpe Industries. "Longmont is a perfect example of a typical U.S. city spending thousands of dollars instead by choosing a scalable, decentralized network solution."

Because the system is tied to the city's existing network, Longmont could start with a few high-value sites and expand surveillance city-wide in affordable increments. Now the business community is also considering tying into the city-wide surveillance network to help law enforcement respond more quickly to local crimes and disasters.

