Surveillance cameras surrounded by Caribbean waters.

Government of Nueva Esparta uses Axis cameras to protect residents and tourists on Margarita Island.

Organization:
Government of Nueva Esparta, Venezuela

Location:
Nueva Esparta, Venezuela

Industry segment:
City surveillance

Application:
Safety and security

Axis partners:
Anixter, Desarrollos Tecnológicos Margarita (Tecnomar), Digifort

Mission

Nueva Esparta in Venezuela is composed entirely of island territory. It is among the areas that receive a large number of tourists, both foreign and domestic, while serving as a nature preserve for local marine fauna of great economic importance to the country. Concerned about the security of residents and visitors alike, the state government – in conjunction with Tecnomar, an Axis integration partner in Venezuela – Nueva Esparta decided to implement a monitoring system to ensure the safety of both locals and tourists.

Solution

The system installed allows for the monitoring of Margarita Island's major roads, urban and commercial centers, seaports and airports. The island is one of the top tourist destinations in the region as well as its principal monitoring center in the prefecture of the municipality of Mariño. The system, implemented in four different stages, consists of 100 Axis network cameras on a centralized platform that are controlled using software by Digifort, an Axis partner.

Result

The implementation of a system spanning the Nueva Esparta geography sets Margarita Island at the forefront in terms of the nation's monitoring and public safety projects. Prevention measures have resulted in a reduction in theft and of harm and vandalism to protected natural areas – contributing to the preservation of the island's natural beauty.

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> **"The implementation of this video surveillance system has improved detection of criminal activities as a result of the monitoring capabilities of the cameras, which generate an immediate response on the part of security personnel."**
>
> Eric Lárez, Operations Manager at Tecnomar.

Escape to a safe place

The Nueva Esparta island territory, and in particular Margarita Island, receives a significant amount of tourism all year round with peaks during the Easter season, the day of celebration of the island's patron saint and around the time when many festivities are taking place at Christmas. Overall, visitors come for the beaches, local hospitality, and tranquil atmosphere. However, foreign tourism has been affected by rising crime rates.

In order to reduce the decline in tourism on the island to some extent, the state government and tech integrator Technomar drew up a plan to establish and maintain a security monitoring system. The system had to offer both citizens and foreign visitors a secure environment.

Connections over the water

To provide a high-resolution security system, Tecnomar installed a total of 100 network cameras: 25 AXIS 214 PTZ, 25 AXIS 233D and 50 AXIS Q6032-E Network Cameras were positioned covering the length and width of the island's geographic area including its main roads, urban and commercial centers, seaports and airports.

"The objective was to cover the major areas of transit in order to detect any criminal activity in progress, as well as do a better job for the community in terms of monitoring the collection of garbage, the enforcement of traffic rules and even the condition of the roadway infrastructure," said Eric Lárez, Operations Manager at Tecnomar.

According to Lárez, "Comprehensively, this project is not only responsible for monitoring urban areas of the city, but also landmarks such as Parguito Beach and La Asunción. The main objective of these particular installations is to prevent acts of vandalism that can take place in these areas of the region." The system implemented provides checkpoints in strategic locations that allow for the identification, for example, of high risk situations that may be encountered in these areas.

However, the island's vast territory presented technical challenges. "The biggest challenge presented to this installation was data transmission over long distances and through connections over the water, which was solved by expanding repeater points and properly positioning cameras at strategic locations in order to achieve a high-quality signal," he said.

Situations resolved

Due to an increase in security incidents on Margarita Island, police simply performing their daily rounds was no longer sufficient to ensure safety. Therefore, the government of Nueva Esparta decided to resort to a wireless technology that allows for the identification of criminal activities and individuals who may commit criminal acts, thus achieving efficiency by monitoring areas where there was previously no security coverage at all.

The IP video surveillance system installed even allows for the monitoring of proper waste disposal procedures.

In addition, the system relies on OFDM technology to provide stable connections and optimal bandwidth for streaming video. For Eric Lárez, Operations Manager at Tecnomar, another advantage of the system was to be able to "reach difficult-to-access geographic areas that now can be easily monitored".

Once the system was installed, the cameras displayed a great capacity for handling a variety of situations, both night and day. Having proven its efficiency, the government of Nueva Sparta is now considering expansion of the project to other regions of the same state. In an area where the main activity is tourism, it is important that the presence of cameras be used as a deterrent to any attempted acts of vandalism.

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