

TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPLEMENTS DVR5100-BASED SECURITY SOLUTIONS

* Located on the southern edge of Fort Worth, Texas, Crowley Independent School District is one of the fastest growing districts in a fast-growing metroplex. With nearly 14,000 students and 1,000 new students each year, the Crowley schools are dealing with the excitement and demands of such growth. **BY DAVID A. AUS**

A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS AT CROWLEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Though it was installed just a few years ago, Crowley ISD's existing CCTV system was no longer meeting its needs. With black and white cameras and VCRs recording at three to five frames per second, the old system lacked the performance and video quality they required. What's more, many of the cameras in the old system were exposed and easily tampered with, rendering them useless for recording scenes of interest.

Knowing that their current system needed a drastic overhaul, Crowley ISD sought a solution that would give them the video quality they needed while meeting their budget requirements.

C O N T I N U E D

Moreover, they required a solution that would meet not just their current needs, but that would be able to grow and adapt as their needs evolve. Additionally, aware of the limitations of their old time-lapse system, the school district's Request For Proposal required recording at 30 frames per second. "Many vendors balked at the high frame rate," says Miguel Sanchez, Assistant Director of Technology for the District. "Pelco was the only manufacturer that said they could meet that requirement." That solution came in the winning proposal from integrator Enterprise Security Solutions of Texas (ESST).

Based in Denton, the ESST team brings nearly a century of combined industry experience in the design, implementation and service of electronic security and data voice systems. "We provide services that are unparalleled in our industry," says ESST Vice President Ron Rackley. "Just like Pelco, customer service is always top of mind for us – our commitment to customer satisfaction is unrelenting."

"For the Crowley ISD system," Rackley continues, "it all came down to performance and value. The combination of Pelco DVR5100 digital video recorders, Pelco cameras, and PelcoUTP transmission

allowed us to give them the performance they need, at the right price."

"We considered a range of technology options," explains Sanchez. "We liked the combination of analog cameras and digital recording. For our application, the Pelco analog cameras deliver excellent picture quality, and the price was right."

This first phase of a multi-phase project addressed the needs for video security at two high schools, a ninth-grade facility, and the district's Administrative Center. To determine appropriate camera placement, Sanchez and his team spoke

PELCO PRODUCTS USED: 5

DVR5100 + PELCOUTP + ICS090 CAMERA + ICS110 CAMERA + SPECTRA MINI

with principals, vice principals and the police department's resource officers assigned to the schools. The system design focuses on known problem areas – congregation points, hallways, and entrances – while protecting the privacy

of students and staff. "Anywhere there's a perceived sense of privacy, we're sensitive to that in the system," explains Sanchez.

In all the system for the first phase includes 354 Pelco camera systems, including ICS090 and ICS110 Series Camclosures and

Spectra Mini domes. One high school has 180 cameras, while the other has 160, with the balance of the cameras installed at the ninth-grade facility and the Admin Center. The cameras are all connected using PelcoUTP transmission equipment.



“Given the budget, PelcoUTP is an ideal option for this setting,” says Rackley. “The picture quality is indistinguishable from fiber, and the price was right.”

Everything is recorded on 25 DVR5100s. From beginning to end, the entire install – running new cable, placing cameras, removing old equipment – took roughly 90 days. “Doing a system replacement this fast was easy, because the Pelco solution works so well,” explains Rackley. “As soon as we plugged in a new camera, a DVR was recording almost immediately. We were literally capturing incidents on video while we were doing the installation.”

“The picture quality of this system is outstanding,” says Miguel Sanchez.

“We can see things we never would have seen before. The DVR5100 gives us the flexibility to dramatically extend our recording storage time. Our old VCR system recorded for eight hours, and then started recording over the tapes again. Now we’re able to retain video for five days, or even longer, by adjusting frame rates and using motion recording. And the video evidence we’ve been able to capture helps everyone see what really happened during an incident. That helps sort out incidents, and in several situations, it has kept the school

district out of the courtroom. That’s good for everybody.”

With the successful completion of the first phase, Crowley ISD is looking forward to expanding the video solution to the rest of the schools in the district. “The two high schools were our first priority,” explains Sanchez. “We have 18 more campuses to do. These are based on three designs, so once we get the first ones done, we can easily replicate the video system design for each similar campus.”

“And this summer, we’re adding card access to the high schools,” Sanchez

CROWLEY ISD FACILITIES TO RECEIVE PELCO INSTALLATIONS: 18

CURRENT NUMBER OF PELCO INSTALLATIONS: THREE

continues. “Once that system is in, we’ll interface it with the video system, which will take our security to an even higher level.” Sanchez credits Pelco and ESST for a successful system. “Ron Rackley was extremely informative and helpful. He

listened to our needs before suggesting a solution. Pelco was new to us, but the quality and the price fit our needs perfectly. The DVR5100 is a great system, and it makes an excellent entry-point for users who envision a fully distributed solution

in the future. We’re trying to show the schools that they can have this level of performance, even on a school budget. And it’s easy to recommend a Pelco solution, because the products and the company always deliver.” ✨

