

# ALL EYES ON CARNIVAL



The state of Pernambuco, located in the Northeast Region of Brazil, and its capital, Recife, are home to a unique Carnival experience, considered by the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest in the world based on the number of participants. During Carnival 2008, the cities of Recife and neighboring Olinda saw more than 1.5 million visitors take to the streets with a singular purpose: to have fun as much as possible. At the same time, the safety of all the revelers were in the hands of local law enforcement officials who deployed an array of Pelco cameras and systems to provide high-quality video and assist police in incident response. *by Denise Ahrens, Marketing Manager, Crockett International*

The Pernambuco's Public Security Department called upon security systems integrator Aragão Engenharia & Networks to deliver such a solution. Able to meet the tight installation deadline and with a product and pricing offer second to none, Aragão Engenharia & Networks installed more than fifty Spectra IV dome positioning camera systems that provided much-needed video coverage for the city and the Carnival events. According to Jose Neto, Regional Sales Manager from Crockett International in Recife, "Three factors were critical for success with this project, specifically, extraordinary delivery from Pelco, perfect Anixter logistics, and the expertise of Aragão Engenharia to deliver the solution on time. With the support of Crockett International, the project was considered one of the most important in the region."

In conjunction with local video systems distributor, Anixter do Brasil, Aragão Engenharia & Networks chose a Pelco solutions due to the unique nature of the installation and the quality video and reliable operation that was demanded of the project. According to Silvio Aragão, Executive Director, Aragão Engenharia & Networks, "We have been Pelco partners for five years now and consider Pelco as one of the industry's best companies." Combined with deadline considerations, project characteristics and need for high quality products, Pelco was the only choice.

Once installed, Carnival surveillance operations were carried out by Aragão Engenharia & Networks staff under the supervision of Militar Police, who dispatched patrols through radio communications as soon as criminal and other incidents took place. By being able to rely on the camera systems installed throughout the city, the agencies responsible for security were able to more-efficiently deploy the necessary resources to mitigate any issues that could arise - and do so promptly.

Using Spectra IV 35x camera positioning systems and fiber optic runs, the resulting high-quality video was instrumental in identifying and ultimately hindering violent incidents. According to Social Defense Secretary, Servilho Paiva, "The devices enabled accurate face recognition, vehicle plate identification, and suspicious movement detection." The combination of these enabled security forces to deliver the appropriate response to any and all incidents. In fact, during the five days of Carnival, the surveillance system resulted in the arrest of 41 people, which led to a decrease in violent crime of more than 30% in the cities of Recife and Olinda over the same period compared to the previous year.

To this day, the project remains fully operational. Though the video systems were initially deployed in those areas where Carnival activities took place, some of these systems are being redeployed to other locations in order to provide greater city coverage for the rest of the year.



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*- Silvio Aragão, Executive Director,  
Aragão Engenharia & Networks*