

Pushing into the Future

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The new Beaver County 911 Center, located about 10 miles from the Pittsburgh International Airport, opened in early 2010 as one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the United States. The 18,000 square-foot, \$18 million project was centered around an upgrade in technology – and Pelco by Schneider Electric was at the core.

“One of the big things we’re seeing right now, since this building has been in operation, is the ability to plug into other camera systems – not only with our systems here but reaching out to other sites,” said Wes Hill, the county’s emergency services director. “It’s one step above regular security because ours is more advanced where we can plug into other systems too.”

Hill said the 911 center’s new Pelco Digital Sentry video security platform has already proved to be helpful with the ability to keep an eye on areas around the county, allowing emergency personnel to watch events and advise first responders. “The system has allowed us to reach out a lot farther than just inside our operation,” he said.

One of the reasons the Digital Sentry platform was chosen is its flexibility in supporting cost effective analog systems as well as more sophisticated IP and megapixel cameras.

“Pelco has the breadth of product that allows the sites within the county to select camera technology that meets their specific need,” sales representative Tim Wetzel said, “and yet by observing that it is from compatible Pelco family product, it can still link to this facility.”

The compatibility allows emergency personnel to access camera systems at other sites, such as bridges, schools, colleges, malls and apartment complexes. The use of the Pelco ControlPoint viewing client makes it possible for the 911 center to view video surveillance from anywhere on its internal cable TV system.

“The Digital Sentry system’s ability to integrate economical analog camera systems with IP and megapixel, and to pull cameras of these differing technologies onto one screen, made it the choice

for this project,” said Charles Druzak of George M. Brobeck Company, an integrator on the project.

“This capability not only allowed the 911 center to use the camera technology providing the best match to its functional requirements within the center, but also allows sites throughout the County to choose a compatible platform type meeting their functional and budgetary requirements.”

PROVEN EFFECTIVENESS

The 911 center’s own surveillance needs are met using eight Sarix IX30 3-megapixel cameras for exterior views and 25 analog cameras for interior views. Recording is provided by Digital Sentry RealVue and a DX8100 DVR system.

Can we also use this as a pullout quote: “With the capability of plugging into other systems, that’s going to be the thing of the future,” Hill said. “It will be the way of the future for 911 centers, not to be monitoring, but if there’s an incident, to get information for responders.”

Within months of the installation, the Pelco video security recordings had already captured an ATM robbery, helped police verify a suspect in an attack with a weapon and investigate a car crash.

“This system is second to none,” Hill said. “It’s open for anyone to come in to see if they’d like to see these systems in working.”

The high-tech 911 facility was developed under the guidance of Hill, who worked with technology integrators George M. Brobeck Company, Intertech Security LLC and the Milsk Company on the project.

“Pelco was selected because of the company’s commitment to quality product, outstanding service and the ability to handle cameras of differing technologies on one display platform,” Druzak said.

The building’s access control is integrated with the video system so staff can instantly bring up video associated with any access control issue. APC UPS and power distribution racks are also used as part of a wider Schneider Electric solution. Schneider Electric vows to protect businesses, employees and customers by making energy safe, reliable, efficient and productive with its overall buildings solutions.

The Pelco system’s configuration interfaces with the facility’s internal cable television distribution system to carry the entire basic local cable lineup plus 14 internally generated channels, including two high-definition channels and four local (over-the-air) channels. There’s a wireless switching system for the eight 65-inch LCD televisions in the dispatch center.

“The system as it is, and the ability to expand itself, is the reason we went toward that system,” Hill said. “We’re already looking at expanding some different areas we want to just on our building alone.”

Introducing the new Digital Sentry

Simplified, optimized and more powerful than ever, this robust new hardware system delivers essential support for the popular Pelco DS NVS Network Video Software. Easy to order. Easy to install and operate. See page 40 to learn more.