Auckland Airport Selects March Networks Video Surveillance

Video From 680 Cameras is Available to Investigate Security Breaches, Accidents, Thefts and Other Incidents Throughout the Airport Campus

Auckland Airport, the largest and busiest airport in New Zealand, is currently using a March Networks® video surveillance platform to enhance its capability to record and retrieve CCTV footage. It is planning to review its entire CCTV system in the next year or so, and looking to improve its live CCTV surveillance system.

Voted the best airport in Australia Pacific the last four years in a row, Auckland Airport records more than 14 million passenger movements a year, serves more than 20 international airlines and has the capacity for 45 flight movements per hour.

The airport began transitioning to March Networks technology in 2008. The move to a March Networks video recording system made sense, explained Kinnary Patel, the airport’s electronic systems planning engineer, because March Networks was able to provide continuity in terms of support. It also allowed Auckland Airport to protect its investment in older technology during a phased rollout of March Networks technology for recording the 680 CCTV cameras located throughout the airport campus.

Another key factor in the decision to transition to March Networks was the local presence of security systems integrator and March Networks’ Certified Solution Provider SECOM Guardall and its relationship with sister company Asset Security Distribution, an importer and distributor of March Networks products.
SECOM Guardall has been able to provide the airport with technical expertise and prompt service when required, while ASD can supply product from stock without the delays that sometimes occur with international shipping and customs clearance.

Video recorded from 680 cameras is available to investigate security breaches, accidents, thefts and other incidents in the airport’s international and domestic terminals, car parks, roads, aprons, as well as the airfield itself. Approximately 80 cameras also monitor the airport’s baggage handling system, including the conveyors and carousels, to make sure the system is operating properly, as well as for security purposes.

The airport has currently standardized on March Networks 7532 Hybrid NVRs, a reliable, easy-to-use networked video recorder that supports up to 32 analog or high definition megapixel IP cameras. The 7532 NVR provides outstanding H.264 video compression and accommodates up to four high-capacity hard drives for a total of 8 TB of internal storage.

It features March Networks exclusive docking station architecture for faster installation and maintenance, an internal back up battery for power brown-out protection and advanced health monitoring features.

“Our security team is very happy with the 7532 NVR,” said Shiu Verma, the airport’s Utilities and Systems Engineering Services Manager. “The quality of the video is excellent, it’s easy to program the recorders, and saves a lot of time and effort managing video clips for police and other agencies when incidents or accidents occur, making journeys better for our passengers, which is our top priority.”

The airport has also deployed March Networks MegaPX WDR and MegaPX.
WDR MiniDome cameras, as well as Edge 4
Encoders and Edge 1 MicroEncoders. Both
cameras deliver high-resolution images and
are designed to provide clarity and detail
in bright and low-light conditions, while
also offering the efficiency of H.264 video
streaming.

The March Networks encoders convert
video from analog surveillance cameras
onto the airport’s IP network, replacing
long coaxial cable runs with a single network
connection. They support one to four
channels of video and offer simultaneous
H.264 and MPEG-4 video streaming.

Video is monitored 24/7 by airport staff
in a monitoring centre equipped with a video
wall utilizing March Networks Site Manager
software to access the cameras. Monitoring
centre staff are responsible for keeping an
eye on different areas of the airport and
alerting security staff to investigate any
security threats or suspicious incidents. A
second, backup monitoring centre is also
available in the event of a disaster recovery
case.

Video surveillance is used to manage,
investigate and resolve issues ranging from
thefts to aircraft incidents on the airfield.
Being somewhat remote from the world’s
trouble spots, New Zealand hasn’t had
problems with international terrorism, but
airport security staff are still required to take
all of the usual precautions.

Kinnary, who is responsible for the
performance and maintenance of the system,
is especially fond of the health monitoring
capability of the March Networks system
and the email alerts the airport receives
in the event of any hardware issues or if a
camera is not recording.

Airport electronics services contractors
perform most of the installations, as well
as most of the service and repair work
themselves, although SECOM Guardall
performed the initial installation and
is available to troubleshoot and provide
technical support when required.

The transition to March Networks
technology is scheduled to continue this
year as the airport replaces legacy recorders
and adds cameras as terminals are upgraded
and expanded.

According to SECOM Guardall’s sales
manager Simon Masters and technical sales
consultant Chris Newton, there aren’t many
customers in the same league as Auckland
Airport.

“It’s refreshing to work with a client
that is so knowledgeable and interested in
new developments in video surveillance
technology,” said Masters. “Shiu and
Kinnary are very forward-thinking. They
do a lot of research and excel at planning
upgrades and extensions to their video
surveillance system well in advance of target
deployment dates. It’s a pleasure working
with them.”

Shiu notes that video surveillance plays
a critical role in ensuring the safety and
security of the airport, its passengers and
staff.

“We’re very happy with the support we
receive from SECOM Guardall and with the
quality of our March Networks technology,”
he said. “They provide us with the video
surveillance expertise and technology we
require to address our security needs.”

“Shiu Verma, Utilities and Systems
Engineering Services Manager, left,
and Kinnary Patel, Electronic Systems
Planning Engineer, are responsible for
the video surveillance system
at Auckland Airport.

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for police and other agencies when incidents or accidents occur...”

— Shiu Verma
Auckland Airport
Monitoring centre staff at Auckland Airport dispatch officers to investigate security threats and any incidents of suspicious behavior (top); March Networks megapixel cameras provide clarity and detail in bright and low-light conditions (bottom left); Kinnary Patel, Electronic Systems Planning Engineer, with rack of March Networks hybrid NVRs.