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.

AUCKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED

Auckland International Airport Limited (**www.aucklandairport.co.nz**) is a publicly listed company responsible for the management of New Zealand's largest and busiest airport. Auckland Airport handles more than 14 million passengers a year, is served by more than 20 international airlines and has been voted the best airport in Australia Pacific four years running.

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 situation.

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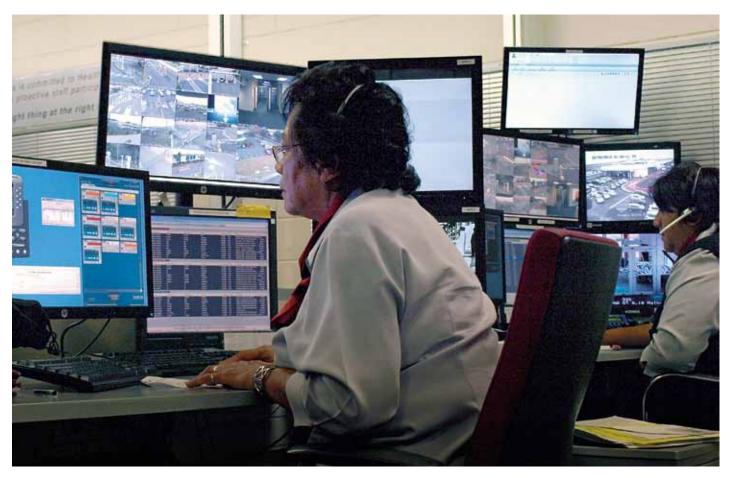
Shiu Verma, Utilities and Systems Engineering Services Manager, left, and Kinnary Patel, Electronic Systems Planning Engineer, are responsible for the video surveillance system at Auckland Airport.

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— 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.