

Summary

Customer

Atlanta Police foundation

Challenge

Creation of citywide surveillance network with command center

Solution

Infrastructure Solutions LabSM, Technical Expertise, READY!SM Deployment Services

Results

- Created a future-proof network that tied in disparate private surveillance networks
- Made sure end-user received high-quality products from vetted manufacturers
- Leveraged local resources to select engineers and integrators

"Anixter's vast breadth of knowledge and contacts with clients throughout the world were able to help us leverage that knowledge to make successful recommendations for this project."

- Grant Hawkins, Vice President of Programs & Strategic Projects for the Atlanta Police Foundation



Customer Challenge

The Atlanta Police Foundation secures and leverages private resources to fund high-priority projects designed to enhance the city's ability to fight and prevent crime. One of the foundation's projects was to create a network of surveillance cameras throughout the city by leveraging existing stand-alone private networks with city-owned cameras.

"We did a survey in 2007 and found that thousands of private cameras had been installed throughout the city," said Grant Hawkins, Vice President of Programs & Strategic Projects for the Atlanta Police Foundation. "When originally discussed, we did not have a plan in place that when funding became available we could leverage the existing infrastructure and be able to maximize our spend."

The first phase of the project called for building a video integration center that tied the disparate private surveillance networks together and to also have a location that will be able to manage a large citywide surveillance system. With a strategy and vision in place, the major challenges came to which products and technologies to use for the project. The foundation wanted to implement an open-architecture solution that could better leverage their spend and better tie in the various private surveillance networks into one cohesive surveillance network.

"It's a new front, integrating multiple systems that aren't the same," Hawkins said. "Does it work? Can it work? Is this going work? It's instrumental to bring in demos, and bring in experts. We wanted to see it hands on and see real-world applications of the technology."

The Atlanta Police Foundation came to Anixter because of Anixter's previous history with deploying citywide surveillance technology in other large metropolitan cities. After being presented with the foundation's vision, Anixter engaged its resources locally and nationally to address the supply chain delivery issues, product consistency and manufacturer selection challenges with the foundation.

Anixter Solution

Anixter began the technology-selection process by inviting the stakeholders to its Infrastructure Solutions LabSM at its global headquarters. The stakeholders met with Anixter's technical experts and conducted demonstrations with specific manufacturer products and showed how various technologies interacted to create a future-proof open-architecture solution.

"Anixter was helpful for us to do our homework and understand the technology to get our center up and going," Hawkins said. "The technology allowed us to leverage the investment that was already there without having to add to the cost of a complete fork lift upgrade. By overlaying different solutions, there was an ease of integrating cameras."





Technical Expertise

Anixter has a variety of resources dedicated to keeping its customers current on the latest products, applications, standards and emerging technologies:

- Anixter Infrastructure Solutions LabSM with end-to-end testing and performance reports
- Compatibility testing to confirm interoperability of products
- Technical knowledge of complete systems for surveillance and access control
- Deep understanding of IT and telecommunications standards
- Technical support with regional security managers and local networking and security experts
- Training and educational opportunities through Anixter UniversitySM
- Technical Committee Chair at ONVIF to keep abreast of the latest developments and provide input into ONVIF specifications

Anixter and the stakeholders selected a product list for the project: wireless mesh network, video management software, network cameras, video wall imaging products and outdoor enclosures. Anixter also leveraged its local team to recommend certified integrators that understood the technology and deployment requirements of the products.

In the first phase of the project, the build out of the command center required ordering of two hundred part numbers. To help ease the deployment of the project, Anixter recommended the local integrator use its READY! Deployment Services to streamline the process. Through its READY! Deployment Services, Anixter kitted the 200 parts into four distinct kits that were then labeled and delivered directly to their installation point on the job site. Each of the video wall kits also included a license for the software that was ready to be used when the system went active.

Anixter's READY!SM Deployment Services solution also helped with the tight space limitations on site. By having four kits arrive already packaged instead of 200 individually packaged items, Anixter was able to free space on the job site for the integrator to stage materials. Because Anixter removed the OEM packaging at its local warehouse and sent it to a recycler, it was also able to help divert waste from the job site, lessening the need for more waste containers.

Project Results

With Anixter, the foundation and stakeholders knew exactly what technologies and products were being purchased for the project and how they would support the overall goals. "Anixter helped us understand the technology that is out there, its limitations and helped us choose one," Hawkins said. Anixter helped the engineer to get the best design and implemented a process that prepared us for speaking with the experts in terms of data rates and best positioning of the cameras.

There are future plans to tie in cameras on highways or from the county to provide additional coverage and share information. In addition to security, the cameras will also be able to help with other city issues such as traffic control.

The city is now partnering with an integrator to develop a plan for future phases. Eventually the network will have upward of 5,000 cameras tied together back to the control room. In addition to security, the open-architecture camera network is being leveraged for other areas such as intelligent trafficking systems.

Anixter's vast breadth of knowledge and contacts with industry-leading suppliers throughout the world helped us leverage that knowledge to make successful recommendations for this project. Hawkins said, "Anixter keeps us abreast of what is tried, true and working in the industry, so down the road, we can integrate different systems into the network."



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