Remote Asset Security

Construction firms, contractors, municipal and state governments, schools, and large companies all share a common problem. They all maintain and need to secure large assets. For the purposes of this discussion, "large" refers to the size and scope of the asset. Often these items are left unattended when not in use, their size thought to be a deterrent to theft. For example, public transportation assets may include buses, trains, and road maintenance vehicles; construction project assets might include heavy equipment and tools. Fixed assets are not the only things that are subject to theft or vandalism. Large stores of consumables such as road sand and salt, on-site construction supplies, and agency supplies are also at risk.

Industrial Video and Control has engineered a video surveillance solution that is well-suited to safeguarding company or public property in these situations. Described below are two examples of how IVC's video surveillance solution is used to remotely monitor company property.

Tovar Snow Professionals

Tovar Snow Professionals of Elgin, Illinois is one the largest commercial snow removal companies in the Metropolitan Chicago area. To help businesses cope with Midwest winters, Tovar employs a fleet of 1300 pieces of snow removal gear and tons of salt each winter. Many of these assets are stored in remote areas of the Chicago suburbs. To secure their unattended equipment and supplies from vandalism

and theft, Tovar wanted to deploy a video surveillance system that could be easily deployed in locations that did not have any type of remote connectivity. However they did desire to remotely view live video from these locations.

IVC proposed the use of its cellular PTZ camera. Tovar installed these cellular cameras at their unmanned facilities to prevent theft of the company's stores of sand, salt, and other consumables stored throughout the Chicagoland area. These cameras are shipped already connected to a broadband cellular network, so all that is required for installation is power. As soon as they are installed, live video is transmitted over the cellular network to a computer at Tovar's headquarters. Here, IVC's camera management software takes in the video feeds from the numerous cameras scattered throughout the area and distributes the video to viewers at headquarters and elsewhere.

IVC's camera management software is comprised of the Relay Server and View Station software packages. The Relay Server presents a consistent web interface to all of Tovar's cameras for all authorized viewers. The Relay Server's web interface provides point and click control of the PTZ cameras as well as on-demand recording of video segments and snapshots. All recordings are stored on the standard PC at Tovar headquarters. These stored video segments and snapshots can also be played back via the browser interface.

The high zoom level of the cameras allow for detailed monitoring of objects and face recognition of people visiting or working at the site.

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Elcon Construction Inc.

Elcon Construction Inc. Of Spokane, Washington had similar concerns regarding the security of their equipment and supplies at remote construction sites throughout the Pacific Northwest. To guard against theft and vandalism, Elcon employs a cellular video surveillance solution from IVC along with MobileLock™ anti-theft devices from DeWalt®. The MobileLock devices can sense motion, vibration, contacts, or temperature and are placed by Elcon throughout a job site. If an alarm is detected at a gate, container, or piece of equipment, Elcon security management is notified via email of the alarm location. Using a remote or office laptop or PDA, Elcon security personnel can immediately access the PTZ camera nearest to the alarm device and survey the area. Additionally, video from the deployed cameras is being recorded 24/7, so, if needed, video evidence of an incident is always available.

By using the IVC cellular camera system to provide "eyes" for the DeWalt anti-theft devices, Elcon has been able to reduce theft and vandalism losses from hundreds of thousands of dollars per year to virtually zero. A major benefit of the prevention of material loss or equipment vandalism, is the near elimination in employee downtime that occurs when equipment or supplies are damaged or stolen. Elcon also enjoys the flexibility the IVC system provides since the cameras are easily moved from job to job and redeployed within minutes.

The diagram to the right illustrates the basic architecture of an IVC video system employing IVC cellular cameras. Local and remote users need only know the IP address of the Relay Server to access any camera in the system, regardless of location. Notice, too, that the same Relay Server can provide access to wired or wireless cameras installed at the company headquarters. These could include legacy analog cameras.

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