

Baltimore CitiWatch Program

Quick Facts:

- ◆ Baltimore's downtown had one of nation's highest crime rates
- ◆ DVTEL / Tele-Tector solution started with 50 cameras and grew to include over 500 cameras with Latitude NVMS
- ◆ Several thousand incidents caught on video; more effective prosecutions;
- ◆ More focused police patrols
- ◆ Improved productivity
- ◆ Baltimore's CitiWatch program has demonstrated 15% reduction in crime rate year-over-year

The Customer

Baltimore's location on the northern Chesapeake Bay has been at the heart of its social and economic development. Through careful city planning, innovative thinking and cooperation among public and private investors, Baltimore is now deemed one of America's "comeback cities." Once considered a mecca for crime, its downtown business district has been transformed into a mecca of sparkling new hotels, retail centers and office buildings. Key to the city's transition has been the deployment of innovative, cost-effective assistance to fight crime and create safer neighborhoods.

The Challenge

Baltimore has faced systemic challenges in fighting crime over the years, and to mitigate growing criminal activity it developed the CitiWatch program to reduce crimes in hot spots across the

city. As part of the project, the city seeks to use intelligent surveillance solutions to better protect residents and visitors. Since Baltimore's law enforcement agencies are already stretched thin, the city required more eyes and ears to communicate exactly when and where a crime is taking place and to deploy existing resources accordingly.

"This project was launched by our mayor who was interested in finding new ways to make the city safer without adding additional police," said Stefan Waters, Director of Technical Operations, CitiWatch. "We also wanted to be more proactive in terms of our approach to crime reduction."



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The Solution

Initially, 50 DVTEL Quasar cameras were installed in downtown Baltimore to protect the city's top attractions and critical infrastructure. Within the first year, the city saw a 15-percent reduction in crime, said Waters.

Since the successful initial implementation, hundreds of additional DVTEL cameras have been installed, spanning as far as the city's outskirts with the help of fiber-optic cables. TeleTector, a Maryland-based security systems integrator, was the DVTEL partner chosen to deploy the technology components of the system, which has grown to more than 650 cameras.

DVTEL Quasar cameras and the Latitude NVMS provide the Baltimore Police Department with unprecedented capabilities to catch and prevent criminal activity. At least 450 of the 650-plus surveillance cameras are DVTEL Quasar fixed or pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) cameras, which are strategically installed for optimal coverage based on the crime statistics of each area. Hot spots receive more attention from monitoring officers, who can alert police in real-time or access archived video evidence for up to 30 days.

"We wanted more than a camera system," Waters said. "We wanted something that was IT-centric, state-of-the-art and flexible enough to meet future needs."

Highlights

The benefits Baltimore has experienced through the help of DVTEL are impressive — and quantifiable.

Features making the most crucial difference include the quality of video, which enables police to quickly analyze situations like hand-to-hand drug transactions. The superior

visibility, bolstered by the color and low-light capabilities, retains image integrity despite infrastructure and weather.

The Latitude NVMS software's ease of use and compatibility eliminated most complicated troubleshooting and make training operators (often retired police officers) a simple task. DVTEL cameras are easily integrated with other technologies, such as Google Earth and Safety Dynamics gunshot detection, which are used by the Baltimore Police to assess the full status of ongoing situations.

"The reason we selected DVTEL was the ease of use," Waters said. "Our system needs to be as easy as possible for our operators to be most effective."

The partnership comprised of local government, police and IT specialists has allowed the citywide surveillance network to run smoothly by combining each sector's individual expertise with continuing shared communication. If Baltimore Police has an issue with the software or cameras, they can call DVTEL and Tele-Tector for immediate support at any time and count on fast, quality service.

The City of Baltimore has reduced its crime rate up to 20 percent since partnering with DVTEL and Tele-Tector, and has inspired cities across the United States that have similar dilemmas to consider adopting their own customizable solutions using cost-effective IP cameras and VMS technology.



About DVTEL INC.

With thousands of installations spanning five continents, DVTEL is a world-class developer of open video surveillance solutions including video management systems, cameras, encoders, video analytics, custom integration and applications.

DVTEL works in partnership with system integrators, end-users as well as with other leading industry players to be an all-inclusive provider of open solutions on a platform that provides full integration.

DVTEL's product line delivers scalability, flexibility and functionality with the ability to grow seamlessly. Regardless of what you have today; without loss of investment; small, medium or large scale projects, DVTEL ties everything together. For more information: +1-201-368-9700 or www.dvstel.com.