

College & University

Texas A&M

Texas A&M University is a land-grant, sea-grant and space-grant institution located in College Station, Texas. The university's enrollment numbers approximately 44,000 students studying for degrees in ten academic colleges. The school has a 5,200-acre campus amongst the largest in the nation with more than 100 buildings, a 324-acre research park, and a campus value exceeding \$1 billion.



The Challenge

For any university creating a safe environment around the clock for students, staff and visitors - it is of paramount importance. Prior to its recent security systems upgrade, Texas A&M employed a CCTV surveillance system with a range of VCR and DVR recording hardware in five of its covered parking structures. Security for the parking facilities was supplemented by an intercom and gate control system to manage access, which is purchased by students, staff, and faculty on an annual basis.

These non-integrated and often dated systems were failing to meet ever-increasing image quality, system management and productivity demands. To ensure satisfactory coverage, the university was contracting, at substantial cost, 26 security personnel to provide an on-site presence 24/7, 365 days a year at the various garage locations. Faced with increasing costs, the university hoped to minimize parking permit fee increases, but not at the expense of reduced security, particularly during late-night periods.

The Solution

The Texas A&M Department of Transportation Services selected DVTel's Latitude Network Video Management System (NVMS™) to provide enhanced, network-based security management for its extensive group of parking garages. The new solutions comprises over 200 cameras, a similar number of intercom boxes and about 75 entrance/exit gates spread out over the five facilities. Turnkey Security, Inc, Manchaca Texas, provide installation and project management expertise. The CCTV, intercom and gate control systems were retrofitted with DVTel Encoders so all data could be put onto the campus network, enabling system functionality from a single operations center or from any location on the network within each parking garage.

The Highlights

With the transition to integrated digital network recording, Texas A&M has saved approximately \$500,000 in personnel costs annually. Doug Williams, Associate Director, Transportation Services, commented "if the savings wasn't motivation enough, the technology is much, much better."

With the DVTel system in place, one officer can do the work of five monitoring cameras and intercom boxes, and the department can now focus on increasing officer patrols, especially during overnight hours.

Project specifications called for 100% audio recording, a multitude of inputs/outputs, and a system with modular expansion. Only DVTel came close to meeting these demands.

The upgrade represents a truly integrated system: video and audio are stored together and accessed using one interface, so staff can watch synchronized video and audio.

Transportation staff can view any camera anywhere on the network, and they have the flexibility to listen and respond to intercom calls from within that garage facility or from the central operations center.

During regular business hours, staff are on duty at all the garages and each is managed separately. After 6:00 p.m. and on weekends and holidays, management of all five garages can be consolidated to the central operations center. The reduced demand for staff and improved productivity means A&M no longer contracts outside security staff and is able to staff all functions with in-house personnel.

DVTel built unique HTML maps to provide pictorial displays of all the functionality in each of the garages.

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