

An Ever Vigilant Partnership

Vigilant Technology digital video recording systems have been given a major part to play at one of the most wide districts in Stevenage, UK

The Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership involves three local authorities, Stevenage Borough Council, North Hertfordshire District Council and East Hertfordshire District Council.

The Partnership's manager is Robert Holgate who combines a forward looking open minded approach to emerging technology with a desire to extract the highest evidential quality from recorded CCTV images. He talks here about the scope of the system and data gathering:

"We want our in house Police evidence Officer to be able to download evidence from remote locations either by IP, conventional or wireless links. He also needs to see images from our rapid response units that use mobile cameras in areas of high anti-social behaviour where there is no conventional CCTV coverage. We look to transmit these images back to the control room via the Orange network."

Areas covered by the scheme include the towns of Stevenage, Hitchin, Knebworth, Hertford, Letchworth, Royston, Baldock, Welwyn Garden City and from 2006 Bishops Stortford and Ware. One of the distinctive aspects of the scheme is the integration with the Broadband for Learning network across 452 primary and secondary schools in the area. The CCTV Partnership has a link with the main 10-meg school network to allow it to receive images of any incidents at its Stevenage control room. During the school day the schools monitor their CCTV locally but out of school hours and during holidays, the images are viewed at the control room.

Similar technology is also being used at leisure facilities and is about to be extended to Play Groups and Cemeteries.

Future expansion as well as existing requirements led Robert Holgate to believe that he would need a customised solution approach to the CCTV Partnerships digital recording requirements, which included a need for audio recording.

Evidential quality

The Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership looked at solutions offered by a number of manufacturers before opting for an Enterprise system from Vigilant Technology. Robert Holgate comments: **"We visited a number of control rooms, one of them running Vigilant, and used them as reference sites. The functionality, simplicity and adaptability of the Enterprise system won the day. While other companies tried to tell us what we needed, Vigilant spent time listening to what we wanted rather than looking to impose a solution on us."**

Quadrant Video Systems as part of a change installed the Enterprise system over from an outdated analogue system to a "future proof" digital system.

The business relationship that got off to a good start at the sales stage has continued during the installation process. Robert continues: **"We could not have wished for more call on the time of senior Vigilant engineers who practically lived with us during the changeover from analogue. We were also impressed with the subsequent technical support as well as the scope for add-ons, which emerged as installation progressed. These add-ons included a DVD ram for storage of unused material, DVDs as well as CDs and the ability to download to a removable caddy which can be given to police officers working on serious crimes."**

About Vigilant

Vigilant Technology is a global leading provider of intelligent IP surveillance and security solutions. The company offers a turn key solution including video servers, DVR/NVRs, intelligent real-time video content analysis and sophisticated, proactive control center solutions. Vigilant has a worldwide customer base and is globally supporting tens of thousands of cameras in airports, governmental sites, financial institutions, correctional facilities, casinos, city centers, and more.

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