CASE STUDY

CCTV - Fit For Purpose

University of Chichester

ABOUT

The University of Chichester comprises two campuses based in Bognor Regis and Chichester, located in the county of West Sussex. It has approximately 5,500 students and 1,000 staff.

The University has been implementing a large-scale investment plan, started in 2010, across both campuses aimed at improving the experience of students, staff, and local community by providing new and improved facilities.

CASE STUDY

MEETING THE REQUIREMENT

With continued growth of the University of Chichester, particularly at the Bognor Regis campus, the existing analogue CCTV system was no longer fit for purpose. It had been added to over the years making it difficult to manage and the image quality was poor, especially in relation to modern CCTV.

The University's aim was to have a modern digital site-wide CCTV system, covering both campuses, with high quality images fed back to a central point at the Chichester campus.

Sean MacEnri, Commissioning & Projects Officer for the University of Chichester, was in charge of the project and undertook considerable background research before putting it out to tender. Sean looked at the CCTV systems installed at Bournemouth and Portsmouth universities to see what he could learn from these modern systems, plus worked closely with the University's IT department to examine, among other things, server requirements. He also worked with the Facilities Manager to identify all access points and through routes for students, visitors, and the general public to create a layout plan. The results of his research formed the basis of the new CCTV spec, which was put out to tender.

CIA (Christie Intruder Alarms Ltd) a long-standing supplier to the University of Chichester, was awarded the tender based on its strength and competitive price. Its recommended system was a high-end IP networked system using Dahua cameras with facial recognition (in which Dahua is a world leader) and Milestone video management software.

Following the tender award, CIA worked closely with the University to flesh out the spec with more detail, including the exact type and location of the cameras.

Phase 1 of the CCTV installation has now been completed and features 70 external cameras covering the perimeters of both campuses.

THE RESULT

Ease of use and image quality are top of the list of benefits of the new CCTV systems as identified by the University. Sean MacEnri comments: "We don't monitor the CCTV system but instead use it to investigate any reported incidences. Thankfully we don't have many incidents and those that we do have are relatively minor, such as trespass or noise; students leaving a campus bar can occasionally be a little loud!

"As a result, only a handful of authorised staff can access the system, which has to be done from a single central location. They have found the system to be very easy to use and we didn't need much training.

"The new system enables us to create a story board from different cameras to show how an event has occurred, which is ideal for our needs. Exporting files is very easy. Images are now of a good enough quality to make it useful whereas with the old system the images were so poor as to make people unrecognisable. The whole system is much more high-powered and is working extremely well."

But it's not just the equipment the University have been pleased with: "The interaction with CIA has been brilliant from start to finish," comments Sean. "They clearly understood what they were doing in terms of the system but also understood how to work in a student environment which, at times, can be very busy."

Work between CIA and the University is ongoing. A maintenance agreement is in place for the new system and Phase 2 of the CCTV project is being planned, which will address internal cameras, including those in halls and academic facilities.

CIA

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