

CASE STUDY CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO

Overview

- City-wide surveillance was needed to help reduce crime rates
- Entire system needed to withstand cold and windy climates
- New implementation is helping to reduce crime and aid officers



The City of North Chicago is a progressive city in the midst of an economic revitalization. Located just north of Chicago on the shores of Lake Michigan, it is anchored with two key facilities – a U.S. military base and a major pharmaceutical manufacturer. In addition, the city is a hub for major roads and rail transportation facilities to downtown Chicago. The challenge undertaken by IDS was to improve the city's overall risk insurance rating. Additionally, the city was looking for a means of increasing its visibility in key areas of the community as well as to provide law enforcement with remote access to "areas of interest".

Action

The surveillance application proposed by IDS had two primary objectives. The first objective was to give the city the ability to monitor, record, and archive surveillance cameras from a central location by police dispatchers. The second objective was to enable police cruisers with remote access to the cameras and recorded information from local wireless hot spots installed throughout the city. A unique element of IDS' design was that the video recording was made capable at both the head-end located in the city building as well as at each of the camera locations. This was achieved through the use of On-Net Surveillance Systems Incorporated's (ONSSI) NetDVMS solution.

Another challenge faced by IDS was the need to fabricate an enclosure that would withstand the windy and cold winter weather of the lakefront city. IDS, along with AT&T, met this challenge for a customized solution that included the following strategies: Enterprise ONSSI NetDVMS; hardened PC's for remote deployment; high resolution Sony pan, tilt and zoom cameras; a Motorola wireless network; and a custom fabrication of environmentally conditioned equipment housings for the camera sites that included both on-board local storage of video and high visibility strobe lights for public awareness.

The City of North Chicago implemented this ONSSI solution as a city-wide enterprise solution that included four cameras in strategic areas around the city.