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NEWSWIRE

City streamlines security operations

By Rhianna Daniels - 01.08.2007

MANASSAS, Va.—An enterprise-wide, IP-based video surveillance system that spans the entire city of Manassas links video at multiple agencies, including the area's schools, police department and public works.

Located 35 miles southwest of Washington, Manassas was looking to bring the video surveillance solution — provided by Lensec — online to increase public safety and enhance area operations. As the city grows, the number of IP cameras can be increased because of the technology's inherent plug-and-play capability.

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"The objective was to put in place a platform for which the city could grow the size of their camera system and the usefulness of their camera system at any time they wanted," said Keith Drummond, CEO of Lensec.

City officials wanted police to have the capability to look at cameras throughout the city, and also view video at schools and public works facilities when necessary. On the other hand, other users have limited viewing options. For example, if a school administrator logs into the system, they can only see surveillance at educational facilities.

"The police department has an overarching view," Drummond said. "They have the overall control of this system."

Lensec installed IP-based cameras from Axis Communications and also integrated the city's existing analog cameras into the system to further leverage prior investments.

Cameras are located at critical locations throughout the area — Manassas' goal is to use the surveillance solution to enable the city's 9-1-1 dispatch center to direct emergency responders in the event of a situation to be able to approach incidents in an efficient manner.

Drummond said the city uses the system to not only increase security, but to better manage city operations, such as reducing vandalism.

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