

Case study

Stylish security upgrade for Scottish retail and leisure centre



Livingston in West Lothian has been at the centre of a massive regeneration programme. With a local shopping population that has grown by 70% since 1998, the former Almondvale Shopping Centre and the new Elements Square extension have been rebranded as The Centre – now one of the biggest shopping centres in Scotland.

Land Securities chose Siemens as technology partner, to enhance the customer experience and to future-proof the security systems required to meet the demands of a contemporary retail and leisure development.

The requirement

The original Almondvale Shopping Centre security system was installed over 15 years ago, with the redevelopment and extension of The Centre taking place from 2006-8. In late 2005, Siemens entered into discussions with Land Securities to design and implement a phased three year upgrade which would allow the system to be extended into two new car parks and Elements Square.

The challenge

Land Securities' technical services manager John McLean explains: "It was a challenging development project that involved ensuring the continuity

of existing systems during the works. Siemens adopted a multidisciplinary approach, working closely with the building services team, architects and contractors to ensure that our security systems were never compromised." Blane McConnell, business development manager for Fire Safety and Security at Siemens, explains: "Our track record in working on complex multi-site developments, together with our innovative financing model meant that Siemens was perfectly placed to provide seamless support throughout the duration of the project."

Solution

Siemens provided Land Securities with a managed service package which made allowance for key phases in the retail development scheduled to take place in 2007 and 2008.

Cameras were installed in the two new multi-storey car parks, and in the link corridor to the shopping centre. Siemens created and installed fibre communication networks able to transmit high definition images and data from multiple camera sites, providing a cost effective and secure solution. The DVR capacity was also increased to accommodate the new cameras.



A Siemens control room

John McLean explains: "We have almost one million square feet to protect including wide pedestrian walkways, stairwells and parking areas. Our philosophy is to provide a security prevention service ensuring that all our customers feel safe and can shop with confidence. We have excellent safety standards."

Siemens was instrumental in the rebuilding of the new Comms Room and new Central Management Suite, where the number of cameras has increased four-fold, with capacity for further expansion when required. The Central Management Suite is manned 24 hours a day by a team of security personnel, which monitors and controls cameras not only throughout the shopping centre but also from an additional remote site at Dundee. The existing camera matrix has been replaced with a new matrix and a new modular digital recording system.

John states: "Compared to the original 15-year-old recording system, the new system is unbelievably fast. There are three main reasons why it is proving invaluable: the clarity of the high definition images, speed of the retrieval of information and the fact that we have done away with paper handling as the data can be loaded straight onto disk."

Siemens had to ensure that the front of house cameras all met with the architects' aesthetic requirements and included stainless steel finish PTZ dome cameras and unobtrusive bespoke grey painted fixed dome cameras to fit the contemporary styling.

Cameras were installed to cover all front and back-of-house areas and a fibre network was installed to link the signals from all the cameras back to the control and monitoring locations in The Centre Management Suite.

Today, the Centre accommodates over 155 units featuring many high street names, reaching 80% of Scotland's population within a one hour drive time.

Highlights

- Challenging development project
- Multi-disciplined approach
- Managed service package to allow for key development phases
- Fibre communication networks created and installed by Siemens
- New Comms Room and Central Management Suite with capacity for further expansion
- Critical service spares held on site to minimise system down-time

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The information in this document contains general descriptions of technical options available, which do not always have to be present in individual cases. The required features should therefore be specified in each individual case at the time of closing the contract.