



Kentucky Underground Storage

Diverse Storage Business Increases Security and Upgrades Surveillance

Kentucky Underground Storage, Inc. needed to upgrade its surveillance system with American Dynamics' Illustra cameras and recording solution for increased security and clearer images.

CASE SUMMARY

Location:
Lexington, Kentucky.

System Installed:
American Dynamics
IP Cameras - Illustra HD Cameras

Introduction

Kentucky Underground Storage, Inc. (KUSI) is a family-owned business located just 20 miles south of Lexington, Kentucky. When the family purchased the former limestone quarry at a foreclosure auction back in the late 1970s, it turned the cave — some 130 feet below the earth's surface — into an underground storage facility and bottling location for its sister company Highbridge Spring Water, Inc. because of its ideal controlled temperature and rural setting.

Spanning an impressive 32 acres, KUSI's main facility has millions of cubic feet of subterranean storage space, including specific areas designated to provide specialized protection depending upon the client's needs. The company stores a diverse range of items, such as medical, legal and educational files, and even boats and RVs. Because the company also specializes in digitizing records for its clients, KUSI must follow different guidelines and regulations for many of the 450,000 boxes of records it stores. It also needs to ensure its employees, entrances and facility are secure and continuously monitored to protect its assets and those of its customers.

Challenges

Because KUSI is in the business of securing important documents and personal items for customers it is always interested in the latest developments in the surveillance industry. "We wanted to not only expand our surveillance coverage, but also needed to upgrade cameras for better picture clarity and capability. Tyco developed a plan to help us achieve those goals," recalled Jeff Baier, director of business development at KUSI. With a need for a change, KUSI also saw an

opportunity to increase surveillance in areas it had not monitored previously, or had monitored with analog cameras.

"We decided this was a great time to increase security and visibility with more cameras and higher quality, updated equipment," noted Jared Porter, operations manager at KUSI. Porter added that the analog cameras previously used at the facility had poor clarity and zooming capabilities. In addition, the company needed better review capabilities. "We needed to be able to go back to surveillance and review and zoom in with clarity and detail," he explained.

Solution

Armed with its needs and wish list, KUSI turned to its integrator of many years for fire protection and alarm monitoring services, Tyco Integrated Security (TycoIS), to execute the plan. "We looked at a few other vendors, but the relationship we already had with [TycoIS] and their ability to understand and handle all of our needs at once made them a great fit for the project," said Baier.

Together, the teams determined that Illustra HD cameras from Tyco Security Products' American Dynamics brand would accomplish KUSI's needs for high-definition, clear pictures that could be easily and reliably retrieved while maintaining image quality and clarity.

"Prior to this project, [KUSI] was dealing with the pains of analog surveillance," said Mike Joseph, project manager and sales rep at TycoIS. "Anytime they were using recorded video, it would pixelate out as soon as

they zoomed in. They needed much better quality video and HD, IP cameras were the right answer.”

While the temperatures and environmental conditions of the cave are ideal for electronics, KUSI and its integrator still had challenges to tackle because of its unique location and 300,000 square feet of inside space to secure, including long distances between cable runs and high ceilings (with cameras as high as 15 feet above the floor of the cave and ceilings as high as 30-plus feet). TycoIS used as much existing cabling as possible to save time and money on the project and the Power over Ethernet (PoE) technology of the new equipment streamlined installation further without affecting network traffic, according to Porter.

The five installed Illustra cameras, which included the Illustra 610 Mini-Domes with wide angle and varifocal lens, provide widespread protection for both the interior and exterior of the facilities. KUSI is also using surveillance to track a visitor’s progression down aisles in the facility.

Additionally, one 1.8 mm wide angle camera was mounted at car height and integrated with the existing intercom so that visitors can announce themselves verbally and visually, allowing security to get a clear image of the person and car before raising the entry gate.

“Previously, we had a zoomed out area of the entrance, and now we can capture a face and vehicle to identify someone. That has been an important addition for us,” said Porter.

Another area in which KUSI wanted to improve security was the parking lot outside of the cave entrance. “It was important to have surveillance on that area in the

event an incident occurred,” Joseph explained. In addition, staff wanted to increase security and keep a close eye on equipment and visitors in the parking lot itself.

One of the selling points for the upgraded integrated solution for the KUSI team, which became even more important after installation, was the remote monitoring capability achieved with the American Dynamics video product. The application allows KUSI security to keep track of surveillance from anywhere via a mobile device, such as an iPhone, iPad or iPod.

“The mobile abilities provided by the system made it a very popular capability,” Joseph explained. “Being able to view video offsite has been very beneficial to KUSI’s security team.”

The Future

KUSI takes the responsibility of securing its clients’ documents and assets very seriously. “We have endless records, back-up tapes, and other assets that are valuable and important, and we need to offer security and protection,” Porter said.

With a total of 22 cameras throughout the KUSI facility, TycoIS and KUSI have designed a new system built for the future.

“We really wanted to make sure this project was designed with the future in mind. The systems installed give us the capability to upgrade our cameras as they fail, and that was really important to us,” Porter said.

The Customer – Kentucky Underground Storage

Kentucky Underground Storage Inc. (KUSI) is a family-owned business outside of Lexington, Kentucky. The facility spans 32 acres inside of a former limestone quarry with 300,000 square feet developed separately for water production and document storage. For 30 years, KUSI has been providing document storage and other asset storage, as well as record digitization. In addition, the site is home to the bottling facility for sister company Highbridge Spring Water, Inc. The company's rural site and natural security of the cave itself, make KUSI an ideal location for storage and processing of valuable and important documents and assets across industries, including HR, medical, educational and legal.

The Solutions Provider – Tyco Security Products

Tyco Security Products, a business unit of Tyco International, is a unified group of world-leading access control, video and intrusion brands. Operating in more than 40 offices with over 2000 employees, these brands- American Dynamics, Bentel, CEM Systems, DSC, Kantech, Software House, CONNECT24 and Sur-Gard- have more combined years of experience in the security industry than any other group in the world. Our security integration platforms, built by our developers from across all product disciplines allow our customers to see more, do more, and save more. Our solutions today are designed to be compatible with the technology of tomorrow.

The Integrator – Tyco Integrated Security

A business unit of Tyco, Tyco Integrated Security is North America's leading commercial security systems integrator, providing security and business optimization services to more than 500,000 customers. Headquartered in Boca Raton, Fla., Tyco Integrated Security has more than 7,500 employees in 200 locations throughout North America. For more information, visit www.TycoIS.com.

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