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Tallahassee Regional Airport

Location:

Tallahassee, Florida

System:

American Dynamics:

· Domes

· Cameras

· Intellex

Software House:

· CCURE 800

· Card readers

· iSTAR

· apC

Tallahassee Regional Airport may be small but it's big on security. The airport was recently honored with the "2005 Excellence in Airport Security" award from Air Safety Week, an aviation security publication. The award is granted to the airport with the highest rating for airport security advances, security effectiveness, security management, leadership, balancing of security programs and operations, and maintaining public confidence in air travel.

Located in Florida's capital city, the Tallahassee Regional Airport supports commercial airlines, corporate aviation, commuter and charter services, as well as a variety of private aviation activities. The airport recently installed American Dynamics surveillance cameras and Intellex® digital video management systems along with the Software House C•CURE® 800 access control system, all from Tyco Fire & Security, for a more efficient passenger security process. They also installed Software House card readers and control panels to restrict access to doors and gate access points throughout the facility. The fully integrated system keeps security personnel keenly aware of activities inside and around the perimeter of the facility.

The solution was instrumental during a recent security violation when a passenger tried to bypass a security access point. Within minutes, security personnel accessed the video footage on Intellex —pinpointing the identity of the suspect. They produced the footage to law enforcement officials, who searched and cleared the aircraft to prevent a potential incident.

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"The system truly works for us," said David Pollard, superintendent of Operations at Tallahassee Regional Airport. "It's very user-friendly. Operators can easily acknowledge alarms, pull up cameras, and investigate access histories, all at the click of a button."

Siemens AG and consulting firm Counter Technology Inc. played an instrumental role in the success of the project. Counter Technology advised the security team on the necessary specifications for a scalable system while Siemens managed the installation and integration of new security equipment. Siemens was also on hand to help the airport relocate its operations center to better support its surveillance needs. The company played a key role in the project.

Working in close collaboration with airport personnel, Siemens ensured a seamless transition for all monitors, video systems, and other equipment.

"We wanted to partner with a company that could grow with us," Pollard explained. "We laid out what we wanted and Counter Technology provides us with a great value. They were a steady hand through the whole process. Likewise, Siemens was very knowledgeable about resolving technical challenges and understanding our unique needs. It was a very positive experience."

Well-regarded airport security technology

Counter Technologies evaluated available options and recommended a full integrated security system to include more than 50 American Dynamics surveillance cameras and Intellex digital video management systems, plus Software House card readers and a combination of iSTAR™ and apC® control panels. All of the security devices are centrally managed through the Software House C•CURE 800 access control system. *"The integration between these products is outstanding," said Barry Hunt, sales executive for Siemens Building Technologies, Inc.*

"Software House and American Dynamics continually work on new programs, features, and system upgrades based on input from other airports, and we'll be able to take advantage of these upgrades."

With the new security system in place, airport personnel have far greater and immediate awareness of situations occurring at the site. *"We can link video and alarms so that when doors are held open it automatically pulls the camera up to that specific location so our system operators can view where an alarm has been activated or suspicious activity is occurring," Pollard said. "All of this is captured on our Intellex system so we have a live view of what's happening, as well as a recorded view should it be needed as evidence in a future criminal proceeding."*

The staff is also pleased with the new card system. *"With our previous system we had to call support for help with the simplest changes," said Pollard. "We wanted greater flexibility. With the new Software House system in place, we've even improved our badging. For example, we now color code all of our badges by clearance area, so that security officers doing spot checks can easily identify if someone was not authorized to be in a particular area."*

A long-term partnership

Pollard is now considering a transition to Software House Multi-Technology Readers so the airport will be poised to meet emerging federal requirements. *"We'll move easily to proximity readers, and be set up if we need to use smart card technology in the future" said Pollard.*

"We're no longer working in isolation. Software House and American Dynamics continually work on new programs, features, and system upgrades based on input from other airports, and we'll be able to take advantage of these upgrades. It's a great value to us to know that we're with a leading provider that's kept us at the forefront of security and listens to the needs of their customers."

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