Cloud Solution Has Client's Security in SYNC

Thanks to its new Cloud-hosted system, a leading automotive industry manufacturer's operations are both more secure and more manageable. Video verification and COVID-19 screening capabilities highlight the massive project.

By the Editors of Security Sales & Integration

Dynamic Manufacturing is a 60-year-old, family-run automotive company (certified as an IATF 16949 operation and WBENC Woman Owned and Operated business) that for the 21st time in 2019 was awarded General Motors' Supplier of the Year. With nearly one million square feet of floor space covering eight suburban Chicago-area locations, the end user needed a simple, comprehensive and intuitive way to manage security, access control and video.

Now, from anywhere with an Internet connection, the customer can see all activity and assess alerts generated from its multiple transmission manufacturing and repair facilities in Hillside and Melrose Park, Ill., from a single security management platform. The effective and efficient solution was provided by Integrated Security Specialists Inc. (ISSI) of Long Grove, Ill., which has been Dynamic Manufacturing's security partner for more than 10 years.

ISSI is a full-service systems integrator for residential, commercial and industrial clients alike that offers a spectrum of security, building automation and smart home solutions throughout the Chicagoland area. Founded by Managing Director George Laegeler, the business has become well known for its technical expertise and integrity, and has developed decades-long relationships with not only key customers but also among the community, police and church organizations.

This is the story of how ISSI deployed an intrusion, access control, and video surveillance and verification solution as dynamic as its customers' namesake. The system also features Cloud-hosted management and is equipped for COVID-19 monitoring.

Addressing COVID-19 Concerns

With the pandemic an ongoing consideration for the safety of its workers, Dynamic Manufacturing requested ISSI's solution incorporate a screening technology for people entering its facility. The integrator met this need with Connected Technologies' Connect ONE Cloud service. It allows users to view, control and interact with all the

systems tied into the platform from any web-enabled device for streamlined management.

The functionality of Connect ONE can be expanded through the addition of purpose-designed solutions and modules. The Safe Passage Module was enabled so that Dynamic Manufacturing personnel and visitors who fail to enter through the designated location (where temperature monitoring was also implemented) are immediately flagged as such on their credential, indicating they have not used that entrance.

"Safe Passage allows us to ensure all employees are entering through one main entrance before any other area of the facility," says Chad Richardson, director, environmental, health, safety & training for Dynamic. "This allows us to complete necessary COVID protocols and instill confidence that every employee is being effectively screened upon entry."

Safe Passage provides a framework for a one-time/periodic self-approval process and can be customized to the user's compliance regulations and workflows. A required checkpoint option means their approval is dependent on entering the premises via the designated area and passing an additional condition such as a temperature scan. If workers try to access a different door in the facility an access violation event is generated and managers are notified of the event via email, text or push notification.

Hundreds of Zones, Cameras

Dynamic Manufacturing Security Project Manager Luke Szulczewski (seen in main photo) manages all services for the user. Along with administering approximately 400 credentials for employees with various specific access levels, he also implemented a feature that ties alarm zones to feeds from a combination of legacy IQinVision and newer Axis IP cameras to Exacq Technologies exacqVision NVRs for video verification. Although not part of this project but relevant to COVID-19 back-to-work measures, face mask detection capability is now available with select Exacq surveillance products.

Dynamic has approximately 700 alarm zones spread over the eight locations and 600 installed video surveillance cameras. On alert, Szulczewski receives a text message and can access a photo of the event for immediate verification.

According to Laegeler, Dynamic Manufacturing has been using the Connect ONE Cloud-hosted system management interface that gives a bird's-eye view of all its solutions across all locations. "The system is convenient and consolidates information into a web-accessible interface, so the user can monitor locations and alerts in real-time and on the fly," he says. "In addition, we needed to make sure we could control where employees were entering and Safe Passage handles that aspect efficiently."

Using the solution's management app from his smartphone, Dynamic Manufacturing Security Project Manager Luke Szulczewski is able to control of security, access control, video and other services across the facility and multiple buildings.

With the pandemic an ongoing consideration for the safety of its workers, Dynamic Manufacturing requested ISSI's solution incorporate a screening technology for people entering its facility.

ISSI set up specific programming rules for each zone and cameras covering the premises through the Connect ONE Cloud. The use of video verification has helped Dynamic Manufacturing quickly assess alarms and ascertain if the alert is an actual issue requiring immediate response or a false alarm caused by rodents or small animals triggering building motion detectors.

"It's nice to be able to see what the exact issue is. I've also set up daily reports and history recordkeeping that allow us to better manage the system," Szulczewski says, adding that he can arm, disarm and handle comprehensive system management remotely. Currently, he is working on converting users to HID photo identification card access, including warehouse workers who typically didn't have card access.

Once complete, there will be approximately 800 cards spread across the eight locations. Connect ONE offers the ability to "batch" or populate credentials easily from the interface instead of at each alarm control located throughout the facility.

Claps for the Cloud
With Connect ONE, Dynamic Manufacturing can easily expand security at its facility and add other services as necessary.

"I use the Connect ONE app on my iPhone often," adds Szulczewski. "It really simplifies managing all the alerts and statuses of the buildings. Each night I'm able to quickly check if buildings are armed as they should be and also get alerts when a building is not armed according to rules I've set. I can also see if there are any exceptions such as zones in trouble on one screen in the interface. Connected Technologies also set up a feature that allows us to monitor certain doors to get alerts if they are open too long. This is great as we had an incident last winter where an overhead door was left open on a particularly frigid day."

Szulczewski says the system allows him to automatically populate and batch access permissions for all users across all its 10 installed access panels. With this feature he can pick the access template and those parameters for the user are automatically sent to each panel to establish the appropriate access permissions.

"The biggest thing is the ability to take multiple locations, buildings and systems and bring them all together to manage from one interface. Alerts come directly to me and I can open the app on my phone to make sure the system is operational — with Connect ONE I see everything in one place." **SSI**

With nearly one million square feet of floor space covering eight suburban Chicago-area locations, the end user needed a simple, comprehensive and intuitive way to manage security, access control and video.