

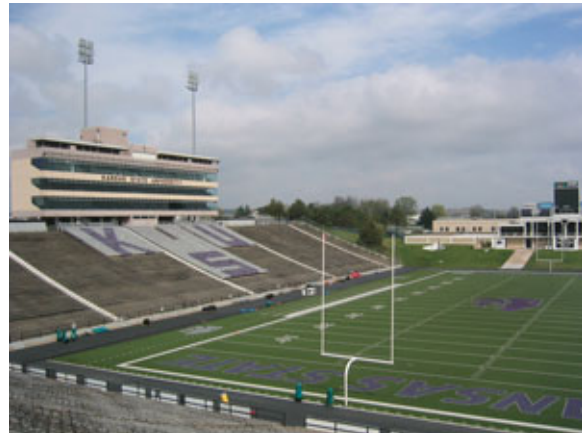
Kansas State University's football stadium uses Homeland Security funding to install Milestone IP video surveillance.



"This new surveillance system is for the safety of the public and people attending our events." - Captain Mellgren, KSU Police Department.

Challenges: This Midwest university of 23,000 students has a big football stadium that needs a management tool for handling protection from possible terrorism, theft, vandalism, disorderly behavior, people with medical emergencies, scalpers, gate entry issues, problems in the parking lots and with traffic.

Solution: Milestone XProtect Enterprise software operates Axis 213 PTZ cameras. ISG Technology installed the system and provides an 800-number support helpdesk service in addition to handling any hardware maintenance needs.



Advantages: The campus police now have significantly improved overview and faster response to incidences. The surveillance solution provides patrolling of the stands and surrounding areas, as well as zooming in to focus on problems before dispatching police to handle them if necessary. Recorded evidence can be used in court proceedings.

Homeland security concerns are fueling the supply of federal dollars to modernize security in high visibility public facilities. Kansas State University (KSU), identified as one of the top ten area risks for terrorist threats, responded with the foresight to install IP network surveillance using Milestone software as the foundation for a bigger security project in the community that can grow as more money becomes available over time. The 664-acre campus is in the town of Manhattan - also called 'The Little Apple' - 125 miles west of Kansas City.

In the 1990s, Kansas State University's football team got a new coach, Bill Snyder, who raised the KSU Wildcats team to such a high level of professionalism that they have become wildly popular with the fans, who can also get a little wild in their enthusiasm – not to mention the visiting teams. Capacity crowds in the stadium come to 55,000 with about 8-9,000 cars in the parking lots and surrounding area.

The campus police force includes 25 sworn officers with a fleet of both marked and unmarked cars, plus a full-fledged communications center. Now the university has greatly increased their security capabilities with an IP video surveillance system using Milestone Systems XProtect software and Axis PTZ 213R network cameras. ISG Technology, a Certified Milestone Partner and Axis partner, with multiple offices throughout the Midwest, implemented the system in 2005, providing IT systems expertise, training, maintenance, and support.

Homeland Security funding

“We applied for a grant offered by the Homeland Security department and got one for the new camera and software system I suggested. We’ve got the biggest football program in Kansas drawing the largest crowds,” relates Captain Mellgren of the KSU Police Department. “We’re also in very close proximity to the Fort Riley military installation, which could influence the terrorist threat assessment. As a matter of fact, the Joint Chief of Staff in Washington is a graduate of KSU, who attends at least one football game a year – and when he does, we get quite an impressive military fly-by overhead that really thrills the crowd!”

Pat Collins, who works at the Emergency Preparedness Division for Riley County, brought the funding possibilities to KSU’s attention and proposed it to the police department. With a vision to expand the IP video surveillance for the whole community, the stadium coverage and any surrounding expansions could be used for wireless access by the county police to improve general public safety and emergency response.

Handling disorderly behavior

‘Aggieville’ is a local bar area that has a very active nightlife. Here, the campus police have no official jurisdiction, so the local law enforcement agency has a sub station in the area, and calls the campus police for support if needed, and if students are involved.



In the KSU football stadium, alcoholic beverages are not allowed by law. People are checked at the gates for items that are prohibited in the stadium, but they can be ingenious about smuggling them in, and there is a good deal of partying before they arrive and in the parking lots.

“We react and take appropriate action when we see it, get them to pour it out or send them away. We’ve seen some arrive with kegs by the truckload – there’s no need for that kind of extreme behavior! We sometimes get problems with people resisting arrest, too,” adds the Captain.

Fast response and clear evidence

“When there’s a game, the whole place is lit up so brightly you can see it from the interstate, so the stadium lighting and parking lot floodlights during these activities cover the whole spectrum of the cameras. During non-activity times, there’s enough local lighting that the cameras are still usable,” states the Captain. “These cameras are the newest technology and we’re using them straight out of the box.”

“The Axis cameras also adjust to the lighting as required, and these Pan/Tilt/Zoom models have the capability to zoom in 25 times for closer inspection,” reports Jim Haugh, Network Specialist at ISG.

Coach Snyder requested extra surveillance coverage of the parking lots by their offices, which are located at the north end of the stadium. This is where they leave their cars when going to an away-game. Other cameras are stationed around and behind the stadium stands, at each gate entryway, on the scoreboards, and high up on the elevated towers pointing towards the public parking areas.



"We had no surveillance at all before, so this is a huge change for us to cut down on the problems we get at this location. If there's an incident of any kind, we can zoom in the cameras using the software remotely, focus right on it, identify who the problem people are, see their exact location, and respond properly – a lot faster," reports the Captain.

If the police have to make an arrest, the county or city attorney has the option of requesting the recorded video images for the entire incident. The Milestone database with the archived material is easy to search and export with encryptions that prove no tampering of evidence.

Maintenance and system support

KSU has a Milestone Product Maintenance Agreement (PMA) that will give them free upgrades of new versions of the software, keeping them always updated with the newest technology and functionality. In addition, ISG provides training to KSU's system operators, ongoing maintenance of hardware as required, and an 800 telephone number to their Helpdesk Support Center in Wichita, Kansas to handle any customer support issues.



For more information, see www.ksu.edu, www.isgtech.com, www.axis.com, and www.milestonesys.com.

