

Alameda County Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations Center

Upgrading Mission-Critical A/V Technology to Enhance
Crisis Management and Response Capabilities



This
installation
represented a
large step
forward in
technology
for the EOC

Overview

The Alameda County Sheriff's Department relentlessly pursues ways of using new technologies to improve the efficiency of the Agency and better serve their community, as part of their goal to be the Best Sheriff's Office in the Nation. The ACSO Emergency Operations Center, located in Dublin California, is no exception. Sheriff Gregory J. Ahern sought to create a state of the art digital nerve center with which various agencies and utilities could come together to efficiently manage emergencies in a

metro area that encompasses more than seven and a half million residents. While grand in concept, the original EOC suffered from weaknesses inherent with the technology of its creation in 1995. A lack of digital screens, with the large footprint required by display projectors of the day limited the ability to display critical information from agencies and utilities involved in Bay Area crisis management. The EOC was upgraded to LCD screens connected to a

24 Atlona
AT-HD4-
SI40SR
Extender
sets were
used to
connect all
of the
displays



few computers might serve as adequate for some situations Sheriff Ahern envisioned something much more ambitious. He envisioned a system that was capable of directing resources from the southern border of Oregon to Monterey County on the central coast of California during a crisis. This system would receive content from multiple sources, whether local or remote, and allow for easy dissemination to all parties involved in managing whatever emergency situations might arise. In this endeavor he succeeded beyond anyone's expectations. He was able to coordinate this awesome feat of integration with the help of several solutions providers, including Atlona.

Challenge

With the rise of digital technology, complex integration of multiple sources of information, have gone from dream to

reality. A few years ago the vision of Sheriff Ahern would have been very difficult to realize from a system that included a few static computers that were statically linked to a few rear LCD projectors, coupled with a few displays, to a completely routable high definition video wall was a monumental undertaking. When speaking to Sheriff Ahern, Technician Michael Barnes, coordinator of the project, one began to see the scope of this undertaking. "This building is designed to withstand a magnitude 8.4 earthquake, has food and water enough to last several weeks and enough power to run continuously for a month" said Barnes. "The greatest challenge was with the video integration. The objective was to route over a dozen thin client computers, television news feeds, video to a centralized wall while being able to view what content



The Sheriff's office now has the ability to display multiple sources at the same time allowing for much greater efficiency

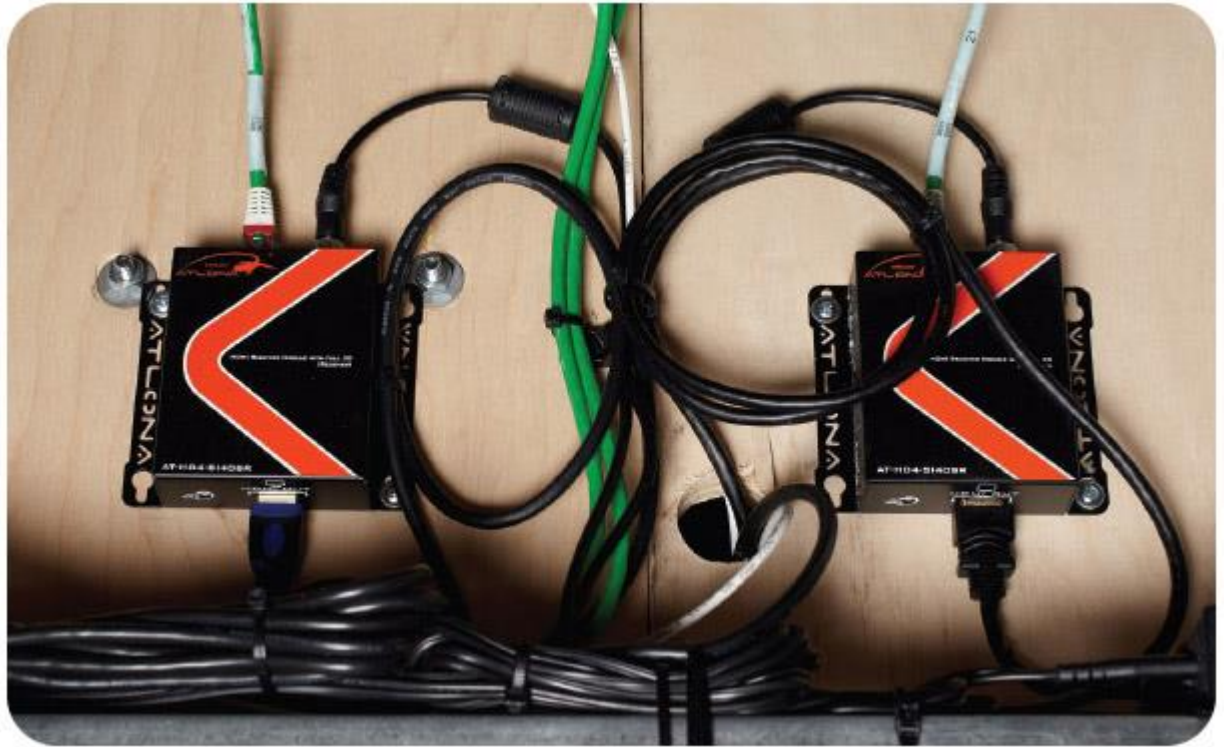
is displayed on which display. In addition the ACSO's needs evolved to being able to route video from eight different remote locations, including footage from unmanned aerial systems being considered by the law enforcement agency. After many months of system design and proposals Harris Electric and Spinatar were chosen to implement this incredible system.

Solution

Ultimately twenty four, forty-six inch displays were used to create the video wall. This allowed a variety of information to be displayed on the periphery of the video wall while two four display blocks were reserved for presentations or additional remote feeds in the center of the wall. A touch pad control system in the front of the EOC has been set up with shortcuts which allow for this default configuration, or the ability to focus in on specific thin clients

or video feeds. Driving the video to each panel are twenty four Atлона AT-HD4 Extender Sets. Well known for their reliability to pass EDID and HDCP signals over 100 feet in one category cable, the SI40 was the right choice for the job. The senders reside in the server room next to the matrix switcher and control panel. The small footprint of these units ensures that precious space was not wasted in this complex installation. The extenders were mounted behind each of the twenty four displays several dozen feet away. Now the Alameda County Sheriff's office had a fully functioning Emergency Operations Center that will enhance the ability to respond to any and all situations that may arise across this massive swath of California. Atлона was pleased to be included in this exceptional and critical project.

The Atlona
SI40SR
provides
great
range with a
minimal
footprint



Conclusion

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office, under the direction of Sheriff Ahern, has accomplished a feat that is the envy of law enforcement agencies everywhere. Their combination of bold vision, extensive planning, and integration of Atlona solutions have ensured that the residents of Alameda County can rest easy knowing that in a crisis their safety and recovery is taken care of by these dedicated law enforcement professionals. This installation demonstrates that Atlona products and technologies are more than ready to meet the needs of mission critical AV installations.

Atlona Products Installed
AT-HD4-SI40SR HDMI Extenders

Upcoming Replacements
AT-HDTX & AT-HDR