

The Goffert Stadium



Name

Goffert Stadium

Size

12,500 seat capacity

Products used

Security Center, Omnicast, Streamvault

Partner technologies

Bosch Autodome ip 5000i

Head office

Nijmegen, Netherlands

Systems Integrator

VideoGuard

Goffert Stadium overhauls its physical security system and infrastructure using Genetec Security Center and Streamvault

The Goffert Stadium is home to N.E.C. football club in Nijmegen, Netherlands. While the stadium originally opened in 1939, a major renovation in the early 2000s helped to modernize the sports facilities and enhance the guest experience. Today, the stadium welcomes 12,500 fans on big match days, bringing a bustle of visitors from near and far into the stadium and surrounding community.

More recently, the security team at Goffert Stadium saw that the legacy security system had fallen into disrepair and was no longer fit for purpose. To tackle the issue and ensure visitor safety, the football club worked with VideoGuard to deploy a Genetec system that could modernise security operations and support a phased upgrade plan.

The unique security challenge of stadia

The Goffert stadium's original analogue security system had been installed during the major renovation in 2000. Though the video system had initially served the security team well, over the years, it couldn't keep up with new requirements. Upgrading the video management system's capabilities was complex and costly and almost half of the CCTV cameras had become inoperable.

Theo van Benthum, Goffert Stadium Manager, explains the issue in more depth. "The images from the old cameras could no longer be used as legal evidence. And that's important if you really want to be able to identify and prosecute suspects. In addition, there are economic benefits for having good CCTV surveillance. The mayor of Nijmegen demands that we have strong security and camera surveillance is an integral part of that. During matches with an increased risk of disturbances, the police come to support our security team and if they think that the camera footage cannot be used, this could have consequences for us. For example, we would either have to allow fewer visitors or certain competitions may no longer take place here. The KNVB (Royal Dutch Football Association) can also come with sanctions if we are imposed by the municipality," said van Benthum.

While replacing the entire system was a must, the security team knew that funding all the necessary upgrades in one go would be difficult. Van Benthum also wanted to ensure that whatever system was adopted had the flexibility to evolve in line with future needs.

Richard Nass, the Owner and Managing Director of VideoGuard, stepped in to assist the club, proposing a complete security system retrofit using Genetec™ Security Center. As an open platform that supports a wide range of cameras, the security platform allowed the club to take a phased approach in upgrading all the hardware. This helped to lower up-front upgrade costs without limiting options in the future.

Modernizing stadium security with Security Center and Streamvault

Theo van Benthum knew that a project of this scale simply wouldn't have been feasible without the input of VideoGuard and Genetec. "It wasn't just about replacing the 24 cameras. We also needed to upgrade the existing network. Everything was outdated and weathered. I knew Richard Nass from the past and knew he was in the camera business, so I thought I'd give him a call. This is how the idea arose to turn our stadium into a showroom. He came up with a solution that we could handle just fine. Now, but also in the future," explained van Benthum

In 2018, the project began by replacing the dilapidated analogue cameras with state-of-the-art 5000i Bosch Autodome cameras, which significantly improved the quality and accuracy of footage. The cameras were then connected via a new network to two Genetec Streamvault™ SV-2000 security infrastructure appliances that come pre-loaded with Security Center. Surveillance camera coverage was also considerably expanded in other areas, such as the fan entrances and car park, to ensure better visibility across the stadium in high footfall areas.

"What has improved enormously with Genetec is the ease of use of the security system. For example, with Security Center, it's very easy to select cameras from a map of our stadium. We can also expand the system quickly and easily if necessary," said Frank Scholten, Product Manager and Engineer at VideoGuard.

While the interior cameras were previously run on a separate system, everything is now unified within Security Center. Staff can access every camera on premises via a single platform, providing a more holistic view into security operations.

Using Security Center Mobile, security personnel no longer need to be constantly posted at a monitoring station. Instead, personnel can easily monitor video via their phone or tablets, enabling a greater degree of flexibility.

The new security system proved its worth when suspects supporting a rival team attempted to burn down the N.E.C. training centre.



Thankfully, the new state-of-the-art cameras were able to clearly capture the scene, providing vital evidence for the police which led to the successful arrests of both perpetrators.

Moving into the future with an open security platform

Since Security Center is an open platform, the club isn't restricted to specific hardware. The team can also add other third-party systems and built-in modules that best suit their needs.

According to Scholten, the possibility for future growth plans are endless with Genetec Security Center. "We're excited that the Goffert Stadium is so satisfied with the Security Center platform and the entire solution we proposed. We intend to keep introducing more opportunities to enhance security at the stadium in the future. This allows us to use our expertise to support their objectives, and of course, also show other stadiums what's possible with the Genetec platform," he concluded.

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