

YPF S.A.

National energy company gets a boost from unified security



Industry
Energy and Utilities

Location
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Products
Security Center Omnicast™,
Security Center Autovu™,
Federation™, Mobile, Plan
Manager, KiwiVison™ Analytics,
Genetec Advantage

YPF secures energy operations throughout Argentina with Genetec Security Center

YPF is the most prominent energy company in Argentina. The company specializes in the exploration, production, distribution, refining, and marketing of gas and petroleum products, as well as renewable energy. YPF operates 160 locations in the most productive basins of the country which extend from the northern area of Argentina to Tierra del Fuego in the south.

Since operations cover the full range of activities in this important economic sector, YPF is considered a critical infrastructure company. The business maintains operations 24/7 for 365 days a year with more than 12,000 employees across the country.

Facing the challenges of older disjointed security systems

At YPF, video surveillance is considered one of the company's most critical systems. The security and operations teams largely depend on video technology to ensure locations are secure and running well. The teams monitor video cameras around the clock from seven different centers control centers.

The biggest challenge for the YPF teams was having to manage three different video software platforms. Each video system was also very unstable and slowly becoming technologically obsolete. This made the systems vulnerable to risks such as database corruption, intermittent camera failures, and ongoing video lag. Each system also consumed high amounts of bandwidth.

All of this slowed the team's response to incidents. During investigations, managers would need to do a lot of manual legwork, searching for the right cameras in long device lists of devices to see what happened.

YPF had many other security systems that did not communicate with each other too. The security and operations teams would often jump between the interfaces of video, analytics, perimeter detection, and access control systems. Not only did this cause even more delays for operators, but managing all these systems hindered the performance of client workstations.

These inefficiencies prompted YPF to upgrade the video surveillance systems. The team wanted to centralize the monitoring of all 3,500 cameras installed in locations across the

country. They also wanted to unify the video system with perimeter intrusion detection analytics as well as add an automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) system to better monitor the entry and exit of vehicles visiting their locations.

Moving forward with Genetec Security Center

After much consideration, the YPF team chose the Genetec™ Security Center unified platform with the Security Center Omnicast™ video surveillance system, the KiwiVision video analytics module, and the Security Center AutoVu™ ALPR system.

According to Carlos Maroni, Manager of Physical Security at YPF, “We needed an agile platform that would allow us to manage our many cameras and security systems more efficiently and effectively. Genetec Security Center helped us achieve this. I think the future lies in having a flexible and easy-to-use platform in which we can merge other systems without major problems, always bearing costs in mind. The platform’s cost must be reasonable compared to the benefits we receive. At YPF, we got all of this with Genetec.”

Unifying security in one platform helps to cut costs

To date, YPF is using the Security Center platform to manage almost 3500 cameras across its 160 sites. The company achieved its ambitious deployment objectives with little time and few resources. With only two technicians, YPF migrated more than 190 servers and all of its cameras from different platforms to the Genetec solution in 18 months.

YPF also installed 62 AutoVu ALPR cameras across its locations. Directly within the unified platform, the team can track vehicles coming onto their properties.

The team also took advantage of the Kiwivision analytics module to detect possible intrusion at each site’s perimeter. They are also using the module’s people counter analytics to track the number of people visiting the company’s self-service gas stations. This gives the operations team valuable business insights that they can use to improve customer service.

Choosing the open-architecture platform allowed the YPF team to choose their preferred hardware from different manufacturers, which helped them significantly reduce costs.



They also saved on bandwidth costs and quickly resolved issues such as video lag with the Omnicast video solution. They did this by configuring maximum bandwidth settings for each device. The system’s multi-casting feature also automatically adapts bandwidth settings to achieve maximum network efficiency depending on the type and size of video being viewed.

Increasing safety and operational efficiency with a unified view

Since installing the Security Center platform, the team has been able to reduce the time needed to handle incidents and investigations. They went from requiring many days or hours to complete investigations to just minutes.

Using the Federation feature, the YPF team has been able to centralize systems across all monitoring centers and several remote systems. This enables the team to manage all systems across all sites from any location, streamlining security operations, and speeding up response.

As soon as an event occurs at any location, security and operations managers can view real-time video using Genetec Security Center. The unified platform allows them to monitor operations, handle events, respond to incidents, and conduct investigations with greater ease and efficiency.

The Security Center mobile app further simplifies remote investigations. The operations or security teams can use their mobile device to view video of incidents from anywhere. The teams are also taking advantage of the built-in map interface, Plan Manager, to quickly locate the right camera and immediately see what might be happening.

This has been particularly useful in cases where the KiwiVision analytics module detects an intrusion at a site’s perimeter. The operators will see the intrusion alarm on the map with a live view of the event so they can quickly investigate.

Even when the team needs extra help with maintenance or troubleshooting, they can rely on the Genetec support team. That’s because they have the Genetec Advantage software maintenance agreement, which provides access to advanced technical assistance and free software updates.

Boosting operational efficiency and regulatory compliance

Since operators are working more efficiently, YPF has been able to increase the security of the sites while reducing operational costs.

Currently, 80% of YPF cameras are focused on monitoring assets and people. The other 20% of cameras monitor operations and help to ensure compliance with environmental regulations. In the shorter term, the company wants to find a better balance between the two applications and install more cameras to monitor operations. They also want to maximize their security investments to streamline certain business processes.

YPF believes that the Genetec unified platform which includes built-in video analytics for perimeter intrusion detection and people counting can help their teams identify compliance risks and keep employees safer.

In the future, they want to monitor live video to ensure employees use personal protection equipment, spot safety hazards at sites, and pinpoint opportunities for improvements or better training. The goal is to enhance safety and compliance processes, while also maximizing the return on their security technology investments.

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