Los Angeles County Sheriff´s Department

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The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) is the largest sheriff’s department in the US and operates on a budget of $2.5 billion per year. LASDis the largest contract policing agency in the US, patrolling 40 of Los Angeles County’s 88 cities, as well as 90 unincorporated county areas. LASD haseleven divisions and three patrol divisions and has every specialized unit a U.S. law enforcement agency can utilize. LASD also provides court security,bailiffs, lock-up, judicial process service and enforcement for the Superior Court of Los Angeles, the largest county court system in the country.

The Advanced Surveillance and Protection Unit (ASAP), which is part of the Technical Services Division of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department,was created to bring new and emerging surveillance and apprehension technologies to the Department, while developing a standard for thesetechnologies. ASAP’s purpose is to strengthen the safety and effectiveness of all law enforcement personnel.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

To effectively serve this large community, ASAP needed to implement new automated license plate recognition (ALPR) technology. The challenge of theALPR implementation was to fi nd a reliable wireless router that would provide a secure seamless connection to LASD’s internal network without any deputy intervention. This connection would access the ALPR processor in the vehicle by transmitting and receiving data from the ALPR server located in LASD’s network.

LASD’s ALPR processors would be mounted in patrol vehicles and 3-4 video cameras would be mounted on each vehicle roof. ALPR would capturelicence plates when they came into view and plates would then be compared to the ALPR database located in the processor. If a licence plate had a WANT,an audible tone would sound for the offi cer and display the WANT on the monitor in the cabin of the patrol vehicle.

To augment LASD’s private network, they also used commercial cellular services and needed asingle mobile network solution that would enable:

- Use of the best available wireless network in any given area – whether it was Wi-Fi access points or cellular.
- Deployment of the latest licence plate data, communications and management technologies. Easy installation, confi guration and implementation of a mobile solution.
- No deputy intervention required to operate the mobile solution.
- Easy upgrades of on-board technology.

SIERRA WIRELESS INMOTION SOLUTION

The Advanced Surveillance and Protection Unit (ASAP) researched and tested several modems and routers and was referred by other law enforcement agenciesand their IT department to InMotion Solutions. ASAP installed and tested an oMG in a demonstration ALPR vehicle over a twenty month period. Once thedeputy

got in the patrol vehicle and turned on the engine, the oMG booted up automatically and immediately established a Wi-Fi connection with an access point located at the sheriff’s station.

As the vehicle was equipped with an aircard, once the patrol vehicle left the operational range of the Wi-Fi signal the oMG automatically switched over to theaircard and maintained a constant connection to the ALPR server. In turn, the oMG would seamlessly switch back to the Wi-Fi connection once back in the station area.

RESULTS

Licence plate information is transmitted and received instantaneously and reliably. Network congestion, dead zones and bandwidth limitations no longerhinder communications. The oMG provides secure, worry-free connectivity for communications equipment and requires no deputy intervention, which is key.ASAP is extremely pleased with the results, as the oMG installed easily, was easy to confi gure and it simply worked!

Since deploying the InMotion Solution, ASAP has seen signifi cant improvements in mobile ALPR communications and operations.

QUICK FACTS:

- Founded: 1850
- Largest Sheriff’s department in USA
- Employees: >16,000

CUSTOMER CRITICAL CHALLENGE

- Implement new automated license plate recognition (ALPR) technology using a reliable wireless router to provide a secure, seamless connection to LASD’s internal network without any deputy intervention.
- Use of the best available wireless network in any given area – Wi-Fi access points or cellular.
- Easy installation, confi guration and implementation, and easy upgrades of on-board technology.

SOLUTION

- oMG

BENEFITS

- Licence plate information is transmitted and received instantaneously and reliably.
- Network congestion, dead zones and bandwidth limitations no longer hinder communications.
- The oMG provides secure, worry-free connectivity for communications equipment and requires no deputy intervention.
- Signifi cant improvements in mobile ALPR communications and operations.