



MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY CONTROLS ITS SECURITY WITH SYMMETRY™

The Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) operates, oversees and maintains five of the most critical east-west roadways in the county. It is a public entity and agency of the state, created in 1994 by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County to ensure that tolls collected locally on its system of five highways (SR 112/Airport Expressway, SR 836/Dolphin Expressway, SR 874/Don Shula Expressway, SR 878/Snapper Creek Expressway, and SR 924/Gratigny Parkway) would remain local, and be reinvested in local improvements to the system. MDX does not receive property or gas taxes, or funds from the half penny transit tax, and does not receive federal funds or funds from the State of Florida Transportation Trust Fund. All projects are funded exclusively with revenue from tolls collected on the system. MDX is dedicated to moving Miami-Dade County forward by making commutes safer and more efficient.

MDX recently completed a new security project to secure its employees, building and important records. A proprietary security system operated by an outside company was being used in MDX headquarters. While the system tracked basic access control functions, the local staff did not control the system. If a change was needed such as a new card created or schedule changed, a call request would be placed to the outside company. This was extremely cumbersome, time consuming and inefficient.

In anticipation to the expiration of their contract with the outside company, MDX's IT Team took the opportunity to

explore new security options. Having had a relationship with FiSec Technology Convergence, company president Alex Morales presented MDX with several efficient alternatives. Of these MDX chose AMAG Technology's Symmetry Professional Security Management System. Symmetry Professional operated on the network, providing a security system that grows and expands with their future needs. MDX utilized existing proximity card readers, and installed a biometric reader on the data center door for added security.

Three separate departments work in unison to manage Symmetry Professional. First, the engineering department's facility manager oversees door operations and assigns access control rights to employees. The human resource department is responsible for printing employee credentials and temporary passes for visitors and short term staff. Finally, the IT Department administrates the entire system.

"Being able to manage the system locally from any workstation was a big advantage for MDX," said FiSec Technology Convergence President, Alex Morales. "They can make their own changes instantaneously, such as change schedules, time zones, and create new cards."

Four workstations strategically located throughout the building manage the system. The system's flexibility allows the building engineer to access Symmetry Professional through a web-based connection from any remote location with Internet access and secure connection.



“Symmetry fits our needs perfectly.”

“Symmetry is used to increase security and protect our office and staff,” said Miami-Dade Expressway Authority Information System Engineer, Gary Lau. “Our approach to physical protection is based on in-depth security with perimeter and end-points’ protection.”

As a public agency, MDX’s primary responsibility is to the people of the community. Accurate record keeping is a task that is always a high priority. The public can request documents, emails and files at any given time and the information must be extracted as quickly and accurately as possible. Due to the sensitivity of documents stored on the server, fingerprint access to the server room was a requirement.

“We use our cards during office time to access the IT rooms,” said Lau. “After hours, we use our access card and key code. A biometric reader is located at our server room which is inside the IT room and must be used to enter the server room. Only limited IT and maintenance staff have access. Security protocol does not permit even upper management to have access.”

In addition to the security benefits, Mr. Lau also likes the map feature within Symmetry. By looking at the map of his building, he can see exactly where an alarm is and what is causing it. He can quickly analyze the situation and make a decision on how to respond.

Why FiSec Technology Convergence

FiSec Technology Convergence is a systems integrator specializing in physical security, life safety, and information technologies. FiSec values integrity, leadership and commitment to innovation.

“It’s all about commitment to service your customer,” said Morales, a 25 year industry veteran. “We back up every installation with exceptional customer service. By understanding our customer’s business and determining how the equipment will play a part of the customer’s operation, we provide the customer with the desired outcome. It is then that we augment

the solution with our continued supporting structure. Support is key to our success.”

Future

Currently, MDX has nine toll booths that are manned at all hours of the day. A proprietary video system and Axis cameras monitor each toll booth, but if a manager needs to see the video, they must travel to that toll booth to extract it. That is inconvenient and time consuming.

MDX chose AMAG partly because of its capability to expand and perform remote monitoring. Symmetry will allow MDX to manage video of the nine locations from the agency’s headquarters. In addition, the cameras are already installed.

“MDX chose Symmetry because they knew it could manage their future physical security needs,” said Morales. “They are well respected and go the extra mile to effectively use the driver’s tolls.”

“Symmetry fit our needs perfectly,” said Mr. Lau. “It’s not too complicated; it’s user friendly and easy to use – it’s perfect.”



06/10 © AMAG Technology 2010.

AMAG Technology Inc. is a subsidiary of G4S Technology Limited.