Algeciras Port – Transportation Case Story

Port of Algeciras ranks most efficient in Europe, anchoring security with flexible Milestone video management technology

The Port of Algeciras is the leading port in Spain and the fourth-largest port in Europe in terms of total cargo handled. It is located in Southern Europe, in the Strait of Gibraltar — one of the world's main international maritime routes — which gives it a highly strategic geographical position.

Each year, the Port of Algeciras Bay Authority (APBA) manages around 105,000,000 tons of goods, including more than 460,000 heavy-duty vehicles that use the facilities to cross the Strait of Gibraltar. Approximately 5.5 million passengers do the same, often boarding with their private vehicles. And there's also the 4.7 million TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) handled by the very busy container terminals.

"Not only is it a goal, but it is also a reality: the Port of Algeciras has been ranked as the most efficient port in Europe for the fourth consecutive year, according to the World Bank. Digital transformation and innovation play a fundamental role in achieving this." Jesús Medina Blando, Head of Technological Development – APBA

Customer
Port of Algeciras Bay Authority (APBA)

Milestone products
XProtect® Corporate VMS, Smart Maps and Smart Wall, BriefCam video analytics

Integrations
Video analytics

Location
Algeciras, Spain, Strait of Gibraltar

Camera count
700 video cameras

Partner
n/a

Challenges:
protection of port facilities and critical infrastructure

The vision of the Port Authority of Algeciras regarding port protection and security, especially the critical infrastructure, is a comprehensive one, as it addresses different perspectives.

- The first line of work focuses on the specific protection of the port facility.
- The second is centered on the protection of critical infrastructure, which will soon undergo a name change and be referred to as 'Continuity and Resilience Plans'.
- The third, highly specific and increasingly relevant today, is the pinnacle of security: logical security.

Solution:
integrated technologies at the helm

It is not only the Port Authority that benefits from this video platform, but also other key security stakeholders, such as the National Police, the Civil Guard, Customs Administration, Naval Command, and Maritime Captaincy. These entities have access to the system because it should be utilized and leveraged from a comprehensive perspective.

Results:
security updates and analytics bring efficiency and significant time savings

Smart Maps is primarily used by the Port Protection department and also by Operations. It allows them to quickly and easily geo-locate all the cameras in the port — more than 700 — resulting in significant time savings in operations.

"To achieve port security and protection functions, we rely on and leverage all the technological advancements available in the market, including tailored solutions, to complement these protective measures with developments and applications that enhance efficiency in this mission."

Manuel Sánchez de Alcázar García, Head of Port Protection and Security – APBA

"The deployment and implementation of the Milestone platform at the Port Authority of Algeciras has marked a turning point. We now have control and visualization of nearly 90% of the service area of both the Port of Algeciras and the Port of Tarifa.

Security itself is not merely a primary objective of the Port Authority; rather, it is a transversal goal that requires the involvement of all members of the port community and the entire organization."

Luis Arriaga Traverso, Head of Security and Emergency Division – APBA

An adaptable future is on the horizon with a fleet of technology choices

The port previously used a closed system, but decided to transition to the open platform approach of Milestone software, which offers so many advantages. Compliance with changing regulations can be managed for ongoing best port practices.

- On the one hand, there are regulatory advantages: As a public company, APBA must ensure that tenders and projects promote free competition among different manufacturers and companies.
- On the other hand, there are technological advantages: as a port, APBA deals with a wide variety of use cases. Having an open platform allows them to choose from different manufacturers for specific uses, depending on unique requirements.

"One of the advantages we have with Milestone is that we can continuously update the system. With the latest upgrade, for example, we gained two new features that have been very important for us: Smart Maps and BriefCam.

BriefCam has been extremely helpful in post-event image analysis. Currently, it is mainly used by Port Protection to analyze events requested by other state security forces. Our plan for the future is to expand its use to other operational departments, as we believe it has enormous potential."

Manuel Mariscal Muños,
Project Manager – APBA

"Port environments, and particularly the Port of Algeciras, are constantly evolving. We know our current needs, but we cannot predict what will come in the next two, three, or five years. Therefore, having an open platform like Milestone enables us to adapt flexibly and quickly to any future changes."

Francisco M. Bernal Sánchez,
Manager of Systems and Communications – APBA

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Recognize the challenges?

Do you also need to see what is happening in your areas of responsibility, so you can respond in time?

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