

Axis network video promotes the sites of Sierra Morena on the Internet.

Four Andalusian Rural Development Associations have launched www.sierramorenaonline.com, a promotional and revitalization system for the rural areas of Sierra Morena based on the use of network cameras.



Organization:
PRODECAN

Location:
Sierra Morena, Spain

Industry segment:
Government

Application:
Rural promotion and
development

Axis partner:
Innovasur

Mission

The Rural Development Associations (ADR) base their activity on the implementation and consolidation generating employment and economic development opportunities. From the implementation of measures and projects, they intend to alleviate the major problems affecting the rural areas: aging population and rural exodus, which involve the loss of quality jobs in the villages.

One of these associations, namely the Association for the Development of Campina Norte de Jaen (PRODECAN), had the idea of developing a system based on Information and Communication Technology that would open a virtual window over the Internet to show the natural landscapes and heritage sites of Sierra Morena to the world.

"Sierra Morena via Webcam" is a Joint Action Project for Cooperation fully funded by the Council of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Andalusian Government under the "Leader Plus" Regional Program in Andalusia.

Participants in this Joint Action for Cooperation are the Rural Development Associations from Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche (Huelva), Sierra Morena Sevillana (Seville), Sierra Morena Cordobesa (Cordoba), and Campina Norte de Jaen (PRODECAN), the latter as the coordinating entity for the Project.

This initiative aims to promote projects and methodologies between regions to enable the revitalization, visualization and appreciation of rural areas through new technologies.

"Axis cameras gave us the greatest zoom capabilities, the best image quality and the confidence to work with the leader in network cameras. So for us the choice was a logical step in our project."

Mr. Juan Balbin Garrido, President of PRODECAN.

Solution

To find a solution that could meet these needs, the coordinating entity (PRODECAN) contacted INNOVASUR, a technology consulting company, whose experience in network and IP environment solutions were crucial for the implementation of the project.

The proposed solution was to install a network of IP cameras and weather stations distributed throughout locations representative of and unique to Sierra Morena, whose images and information could be viewed live via the web. The aim was to make it possible for Internet users to take a tour of the northernmost part of Andalusia without having to move, to search weather variables, and obtain video and weather data as well as historical and interesting information on each of the sites where the devices were placed.

The camera models chosen to perform this function were the AXIS 214 PTZ, the AXIS 213 PTZ, the AXIS 233D dome for outdoor use, and the AXIS 207 for indoor use due to their excellent performance in low light conditions. This choice was motivated by the excellent performance of these cameras, their zoom capabilities up to 35 magnification levels, and their superior image quality.

INNOVASUR also had to overcome some installation difficulties due to the natural surroundings, as the proper functioning of devices in the selected sites relied on having electricity and Internet access, and some of the installations turned out to be challenging. The lack of electricity was solved by installing self-controlled solar panels, and Wi-Fi (wireless networking) was used for web access. A key element in the implementation of this project was the existence of an available backbone from INNOVASUR in the areas where the IP cameras were installed.

Result

The "Sierra Morena via Webcam" Joint Action Project for Cooperation consists of 22 network cameras and nine meteorological stations distributed in strategic locations in the area, whose images can be viewed live via the www.sierramorenaonline.com portal. The Internet has made it possible to take a tour of this unique zone of Andalusia, to check weather variables and information of interest, as well as to watch and store video and pictures of all the cultural and environmental wealth via a multimedia information source with easy access, available 24 /7, and 365 days per year.

The Axis network cameras offer spectacular views of the various sites, including the Sanctuary of the Virgen de la Cabeza, the surroundings of the Cerro del Hierro Natural Monument, the mineral bed of Turobriga, a Hispano-Roman city, the banks of Rio Bembezar in the Sierra de Hornachuelos Natural Park, the Collado de la Estrella in the Despenaperros Natural Park, and of the black vulture nest in the Sierra de Andujar Natural Park.

This website contributes to the revitalization, visualization and appreciation of the rural areas, and the cultural and environmental wealth found in some of the most representative protected natural areas and cities treasured by the Sierra Morena area.

About INNOVASUR

INNOVASUR focus their knowledge, skills and management techniques in the field of business innovation and technological development to serve their customers. They offer a broad portfolio of advanced and multidisciplinary professional services to provide comprehensive support for the development of its clients' technological projects.

