



Fire Brigade Lelystad



Innovators in Security



The fire brigade Lelystad

On 8 November 2008, a unique system was put into operation at the fire station in Lelystad. The existing security system was integrated with the iProtect™ alarm & communication system. Improved security at the fire station Lelystad is now combined with a significant improvement in the call-out time. Lelystad fire station aims to be an open, service-oriented organisation for members of the public, but it emerged from a C2000 survey that it sometimes took up to 96 hours before thefts were discovered. Lelystad fire station is also working on reducing its time of arrival to eight minutes. The call-out time is of great importance to meeting that target.

The link between alarm and security

Contracting company and engineering office Koldijk B.V. has for many years been the preferred contractor and made a few adjustments to the security system in 2004. Together with main supplier Keyprocessor, an integrated iProtect™ security system consisting of camera surveillance, access control and intruder protection was installed. But if a fireman has to go outside and switch on a number of lights on his way from the dormitory, go through a number of heavy doors and switch the burglary alarm on & off when entering or leaving the building, it takes a good few minutes before the fire engine starts its journey. That therefore had to change. The key question here turned out to be: "How can we link the alarm via C2000 to Keyprocessor's iProtect™ security system with no fewer than twenty doors?" Zenitel, market leader in such peripherals and applications in the C2000 network, joined Keyprocessor and Koldijk B.V. in facing the challenge of meeting the demands of the Lelystad fire department.

Bringing parties together

The time had therefore come to bring the suppliers together. This marked the start of an intensive and innovative process. The security and communication specialists did not know each other, but in the end that did not form an obstacle. The three parties quickly identified the possibilities and prospects and decided on a reliable partnership, all aimed at putting such an integrated system in place. That turned out to take quite some doing. Investments were made: in the time and money of the three suppliers and in the patience of the client. A lot of time was devoted to testing and guaranteeing backups. A situation where a door fails to open at a crucial moment is simply not an option.

After driving out of the station, pressing the status box in the fire engine is all it takes to close the door and reactivate the locks and burglar alarm. Now that the integration has been completed, there is an entire armoury of extra facilities that can be added. They include a status box in the vehicles for information and control purposes.



Unique integration

The key aspect of the entire operation is that the systems are integrated at data communication level. In fact, everything goes via C2000, but without placing an extra burden on the network. There is a fast communication from the control room to the fire station and vehicles on one side, and the control of the internal security and facility system on the other. The existing protocols operated at Zenitel and Keyprocessor have been standardised in such a way that the integration of the two systems will be guaranteed in the future, even when some updates are applied. As a result of this, a system such as that in Lelystad works much better than a local, ad hoc solution. The suppliers are convinced that this creates the foundation for applications that could benefit all fire departments and other emergency services throughout the whole of the Netherlands. After all, when every second counts, half a minute is a very long time. Working in a real situation where every second counts means that absolutely nothing must go wrong. That made considerable demands on the designers and builders, but it also put the patience of the fire brigade in Lelystad to the test."

Impressive results

But the result was worth waiting for. The fire brigade is more than satisfied with that result, which arrived on 8 November 2008 when the entire integrated security system was handed over. An improvement of eight seconds has been gained in the time between the alarm via C2000 and paging (P2000) alone. Add to that the thirty seconds gained at night and the fact that the call-out takes less than two minutes (even as short as one and a half minutes during the day) and it will be clear that this represents a gain that can save lives. When there is an alarm in the middle of the night, all of the lights will be turned on immediately, from the dormitories to the vehicle garage. The internal and external doors are unlocked, which gives the fire fighters immediate and unobstructed access to the vehicles and the station exit.