

Schneider Electric

Providing video surveillance for diverse environments with an open and flexible platform



Name

Schneider Electric

Areas

Energy

Location

France, whole world

Products

Genetec Security Center, Omnicast, AutoVu, Sipelia

Partners

Fiducial



Schneider Electric is modernizing and harmonizing its video surveillance systems with the open, scalable Genetec™ Security Center platform that is suited to the diversity of its locations.

Schneider Electric is a global leader in the digital transformation of energy management and automation. The company's mission is to help everyone make the most of their energy and resources. The company offers a comprehensive range of connected products, control solutions, software, and services to help its customers enhance their efficiency and sustainability. It operates in key areas such as industry, buildings, data centers, and critical infrastructure.

Schneider Electric employs nearly 160,000 people worldwide, including 15,000 in France across 100 sites—an extremely wide variety of facilities ranging from public sales offices to tertiary offices and highly critical industrial sites. These sites require very different, and sometimes complex, severity levels, and need a tailor-made approach adapted to the specific risk severity levels of each environment.

Before 2018, Schneider Electric's video surveillance relied on a proprietary system designed and operated in house. However, over the years, this system had become obsolete and difficult to maintain. It was also incompatible with modern cybersecurity, scalability, and centralization requirements. Schneider Electric therefore decided to divest from this technology in favor of a more robust, interoperable third-party solution.

An open security platform for managing all cameras

In search of a new technology partner, Schneider Electric was advised by Fiducial, its physical security partner, to use Genetec products. The choice was obvious: Schneider Electric was quickly won over by Security Center, the Genetec unified security platform, and Omnicast™, its IP video management solution, for

their adaptability to a wide variety of site requirements. Each site's specific characteristics and risk level were taken into account.

The open and scalable Genetec Security Center platform also allowed Schneider Electric to preserve its existing investments by continuing to use its current equipment, with the freedom to gradually replace or add newer devices depending on each site's needs and budgetary constraints.

This open architecture is part of a long-term flexibility strategy. It allows Schneider Electric to upgrade its infrastructure at its own pace without disrupting operations. It also allows the company to consider the future integration of complementary security applications, such as access control, intercoms, and intrusion detection, within a single platform.

The Genetec solution was quickly validated at the corporate level as one of only two security solutions approved worldwide by Schneider Electric. Genetec is currently the only solution used for video surveillance at Schneider Electric's sites in France.

Gradual and methodological migration

The migration to Omnicast began in 2018 at the two pilot sites. A pragmatic approach was chosen: a software transition from the old proprietary video management solution to Omnicast without any immediate changes to the physical infrastructure. The rollout then continued gradually, site by site, based on budget priorities and risk levels. Industrial sites were naturally given priority due to their highly critical nature. To date, just under half of the French sites have been or are in the process of being rolled out.

On-site cameras have been installed inside and outside buildings. Thermal cameras are used around the perimeter to replace old infrared boom gates. Almost all deployed sites also include intrusion panels connected to Security Center, enabling centralized incident detection (in Genetec Mission Control™) and faster more accurate responses to alerts.

Even though the project is still in the deployment phase, feedback has already been positive. End users particularly appreciate the intuitive Genetec interface, the solution's ease of use, and its ability to adapt to each type of site.

A multi-level strategy and trusted partners

Schneider Electric's video surveillance strategy is based on three severity levels. For small sites such as sales offices, remote surveillance is provided by its physical security partner, Fiducial. Medium-sized sites have this remote surveillance supplemented by the physical presence of a security guard, either in the day or night. Finally, critical sites have on-site agents who provide surveillance 24/7.

Thanks to the Federation™ feature of Security Center, which consolidates all systems into a single interface, all sites are also monitored remotely from a central station. This helps in dispelling doubts, analyzing incidents, and coordinating operations.

This video surveillance strategy is based on effective collaboration between Schneider Electric's internal teams and its trusted partners, Fiducial and Genetec. Fiducial's partnership enables remote surveillance, technical support, and the operation of Genetec systems. Schneider Electric also have two Genetec-certified internal employees, providing a direct link to the Genetec technical teams and greater autonomy.

A scalable solution for the years to come

Over the next two years, Schneider Electric's main objectives are to achieve 100% coverage of French sites with Security Center Omnicast, expand the solution's scope at certain sites, and gradually replace cameras with newer, more powerful models.

Schneider Electric is also beginning to consider integrating other physical security technologies and applications into its Genetec environment. The company plans to deploy Security Center SaaS, the Genetec cloud-based physical security solution, in its sales offices. This model is ideal for smaller, remotely managed sites like these.



In addition, two Schneider Electric industrial sites recently began using the Genetec AutoVu™ automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) technology to manage heavy goods vehicle access based on authorized license plate lists. Other sites are now under review.

The integration of Schneider Electric's voice and video intercom system into Security Center using the Genetec Sipelia™ SIP-based communications management system has also begun, with the first site rolled out in 2024.

Finally, the company is considering integrating data from its internal access control system into Security Center so that it can use access data in line with video.

A forward-looking strategic collaboration

With the deployment of Genetec Security Center, Schneider Electric has embarked on a top-to-bottom transformation of its physical security strategy. By relying on an open, harmonized, and future-proof solution, the company has addressed the challenges of diversity and criticality at its sites while ensuring operational continuity and a gradual ramp-up. The platform's flexibility means that Schneider Electric can now confidently plan for new extensions, including those related to the cloud, license plate recognition, intercoms, and cross-analysis of access and video data.

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