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[Home](#)>[Press](#)>[Success Stories](#)>[Retail](#)

Press

[Press Releases](#)
[Press Mentions](#)
[Events](#)
[Success Stories](#)
[City Surveillance](#)
[Education](#)
[Energy](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Financial Institution](#)
[Government](#)
[Healthcare](#)
[Hospitality](#)
[Industrial/Commercial](#)
[Jewelry](#)
[Residential](#)
[Retail](#)
[Telecommunications](#)
[Transportation](#)
[Venue/Stadium](#)

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Hikvision IP cameras point to the future for South Africa's Shopping Centres

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The scenic splendour of South Africa's Western Cape Province has long attracted visitors. Millions of tourists flock to Table Mountain, the Cape of Good Hope, Robben Island – where the late Nelson Mandela was incarcerated – Cape Winelands and the beautiful coastline. But, as the fourth largest of South Africa's nine provinces with almost 6 million, visitors with business in mind are also plentiful in the capital, Cape Town.

The town of Somerset West on the outskirts of Cape Town is ideally situated for commuters and visitors. Helderberg basin with a view across the bay to Simon's Town and Cape Point, and overlooked by the Hotchkiss mountain range, approximately 55,000 people call it home and welcome tourists to the beachfront and restaurants. Both can also take advantage of Western Cape's third largest shopping centre – Somerset Mall.

Bigger challenges

First opened in 1993, Somerset Mall is on the N2 Freeway that connects Cape Town to Port Elizabeth and is in an ideal position to attract visitors and since its first opening the mall has seen numbers continue to climb. Over the years, expansion phases have taken place and Somerset Mall now houses 204 stores extending over more than 100,000 sqm of single level access. Parking is also similarly extensive, with a total of 4,500 parking bays of which approximately 1,500 are undercover.

Alongside the stores, the most recent expansion of Somerset Mall has also seen it expand to encompass an Entertainment Arena. This is dominated by a spectacular double climbing wall with views of the Helderberg mountains in the background. The Arena also includes a 10-pin bowling alley, a games arcade and an 8-screen movie complex.

As a result, the successful complex now attracts an average of 200,000 visitors per week. However, the existing security system had not kept pace with the growing numbers of visitors and shoppers and the Mall's management felt that enhancing the level of security was vital. They turned to systems-integrator SSC Infrasek for a solution.

New IP system

According to Mario Groenewald, technical manager at SSC Infrasek, "When we looked at the entirety of the challenges facing the Mall, we quickly realised that simply supplementing the existing analogue system was not the answer. The expansion of the shopping precinct to 1.3 km of storefronts together with the new Arena and Entertainment Centre had stretched the old system almost to its limits. Increasing levels of surveillance in the pedestrian areas and the extensive car parks was a priority and we were also conscious that the mall is very innovative and successful in attracting visitors to its unique blend of attractions. Therefore, further expansion of the site is quite likely and any new security system would have to be capable of coping with this expansion.

"Having been tasked with implementing a comprehensive CCTV system to maintain security throughout the mall, we decided that the only realistic solution was to replace the whole of the existing analogue system with a new IP system, based upon 130 Hikvision network cameras supplied through their local distributor, Sensor Limit.

According to Mario, the choice of Hikvision technology was based on a number of factors. "The wide range of Hikvision products and solutions, the ease of integration with our existing system and the support provided by SSC Infrasek were all key factors in our decision."

options available to us meant that we could select the right camera for the job without compromising the We had also used Hikvision products in other projects and found them to be robust and reliable, delivering images whilst remaining cost-effective. Finally, Hikvision has successfully delivered many similar projects and offered us great support all the way from system design through to implementation.”

Maximum protection inside

For the inside of the mall, SSC Infrasek chose the **DS-2CD7153-E network mini dome camera**, which offers n make it ideal for the surveillance of an area like Somerset Mall where image quality and a robust build qu priorities.



Inside the vandal proof IP66 rated housing, the camera is ba 1/3” progressive scan CMOS image sensor, offering 2 megap (1600 x 1200 pixels), dual real-time video streams of up to i choice of H.264, MPEG4 and MJPEG video compression. The model is fitted with a bright 4 mm F1.8 lens, although 2.8, 6 are also available, and offers a wide 68 degree viewing angl offers three axis adjustment at installation and Hikvision’s e increased viewing control and versatility. The result is a can outstanding images while withstanding the rigours of a very

Versatility is also offered in placement of the camera courtesy of the PoE feature. Meanwhile, the inclusic automatic switching and multiple alarm triggers, including motion detection, tampering alarm, network c address conflict, give installers and users maximum flexibility.

A total of 100 DS-2CD7153-E models were installed throughout the interior of the mall.

.... and outside

SSC Infrasek opted to install 30 **Hikvision DS-2DF1-518 PTZ network high speed dome cameras** to of the mall and the 3,800 outside parking spaces. Again, image quality was paramount but protecting th environmental factors was considered closely.

At the heart of the DS-2DF1-518 is a powerful 36x F1.8 zoom lens that take just 5.4 seconds to go from v zoomed. Augmented with 16x digital zoom, this bright 3.4 - 122.4 mm lens is backed up by with a 1/4” s CCD image sensor inside a tough, weatherproof IP66 housing.

This combination of 36x zoom, 3D intelligent positioning and the powerful built-in PTZ control means tha maintain surveillance over very large panoramas whilst retaining the ability to focus effortlessly on any a camera also integrates an IR cut filter, for seamless day and night operation down to a minimum 0.2 lux low 0.02 lux in black & white.

Building success into the future

“The successful implementation of South Africa’s first IP surveillance solution in a shopping centre envirc impressive demonstration of SSC Infrasek’s design and implementation expertise that is set to bring in n the coming months,” according to Mario Groenewald.

“It is also an expression of Hikvision’s commitment to producing the most technologically advanced cam them available to every market in the world,” he concludes.

[< Back to list](#)

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Support

Security Center

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