Buenos Aires Safe City
Case Study: Large Scale Safe City Project

The Buenos Aires Safe City project enhances the personal safety of city dwellers and confers a sense of security in the capital once known as prone to crime. Mer Systems has successfully planned and implemented a large-scale Safe City Solution which covers both operational and technological needs.

The technological systems implemented in the project include cutting-edge surveillance, dispatch and 911 emergency centers, over 1,200 cameras and security sensors, fiber optic and cellular communications infrastructure, Intelligent Police Vehicles, and an Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system. Mer Systems delivered a fully operational solution within a short time-frame thanks to its extensive experience in large-scale project integration and a unique offering of in-house intelligence, security and communications capabilities.
The Challenge

Buenos Aires and its surroundings are a thriving urban center, with over 15 million inhabitants, that previously had a reputation as unsafe and prone to crime. In 2011 the newly established Ministry of Internal Security has decided to launch a high profile Safe City project in Buenos Aires with the aim of providing the city’s police forces with the most advanced tools for crime prevention, in addition to increasing the public sense of security and improving the city’s reputation.

Mer Systems was chosen to lead the project thanks to its proven experience in large-scale turnkey project integration, its broad offering of proprietary in-house technology and its competitive pricing. The Safe City project was focused on optimizing the operations and coordination of local police, emergency and safety forces as well as significantly shortening response times.

Area Surveillance Centers: ongoing police operations are controlled through eight area surveillance centers where qualified personnel monitor cameras and other sensors.

City-wide Surveillance Infrastructure: Mer Systems has installed over 1,200 cameras in 300 locations throughout Buenos Aires, including over 300 stationary cameras with License Plate Recognition (LPR) capabilities and hundreds of Intelligent Police Vehicles carrying cameras and mobile LPR systems, streaming information to the control center in real time. The cameras serve an operational need while their high visibility encourages trust in the capabilities of local police.

Communications: relaying data effectively and reliably is a key to ensure that public safety forces are aware of any development in the field and are able to coordinate their response. The communications infrastructure implemented by Mer Systems consists of a multi-layer communications solution which includes fiber-optics and one of the first 4.9 GHz WiMax networks installed in the world.

Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL): an AVL system was implemented to track police vehicles and relay the information to the Area Surveillance Centers and the main C4 control center.

Mer Systems has been able to implement the Safe City project within a challenging schedule and to the complete satisfaction of the Argentinean Ministry of Internal Security. The solution is fully operational and contributes to the safety and security of Buenos Aires residents on a daily basis.