

New Study Proves IP Video Systems Can Be Less Costly than Analog

Contrary to popular belief, an IP-based system of 40 cameras offers a lower total cost of ownership than an analog-based surveillance system, according to a new study released by Axis Communications, Chelmsford, Mass.

The study also shows that if IP infrastructure is in place, the IP-based video surveillance system always will be lower in cost for any system size.

The purpose of the study was to develop an understanding of the total cost of ownership for both an analog

surveillance system and an IP-based video surveillance system. Factors such as system maintenance, video recording and playback, cameras, installation, configuration, training and cable infrastructure were assessed.

A dozen interviews were conducted with non-vendor industry participants, such as security integrators, value-added resellers and industry analysts from different geographic regions in North America. Participants provided feedback, validation and cost data in

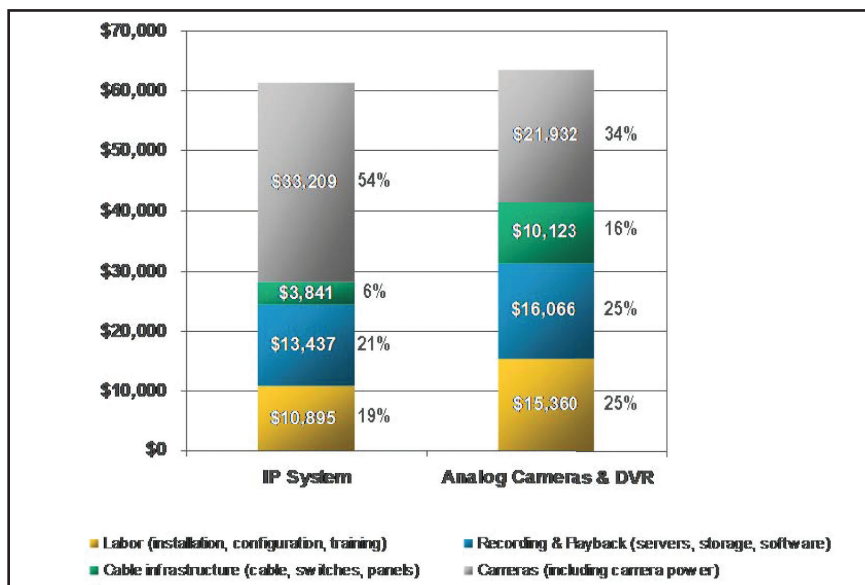
the form of request-for-proposal (RFP) responses.

The RFP was based on a typical deployment scenario that included a 40-camera surveillance system for a small to mid-sized school campus. No existing cameras were said to be installed, and no premises wiring or infrastructure existed.

Findings showed that the cost to acquire, install and operate an IP-based system was 3.4 percent lower than a traditional system consisting of analog cameras and DVR-based recording. Overall, an installation with 32 cameras is the break-even point for IP-based systems versus analog systems.

An IP-based system will cost less than an analog system if the installation includes at least 32 cameras. With any installation between 16 and 32 cameras, the cost of IP versus analog is similar, although slightly lower for analog systems.

Complete details of research findings are included in the white paper “Total Cost of Ownership (TCO): Comparison of IP- and Analog-based Surveillance Systems,” which is available on the Axis Communications Web site www.axis.com. — **Contributed by Chris Humphrey** of Chris Humphrey Consulting, San Diego, Calif.



A new study compares the break-down of costs between an IP and an analog video system.