

Tower Bridge – A case study

Tower Bridge was built in 1894 to a design by Sir Horace Jones as an additional crossing down river from London Bridge. In addition to being a river crossing for one of London's main arteries it is also one of London's busiest visitor attractions hosting in the region of 500,000 visitors every year.

As an iconic London landmark the bridge is a potential terrorist target and attracts a wide range of criminal activity. It has also been the focus of a number of publicity stunts. As a result the bridge has a permanent security team and a range of technical security measures to assist in the day to day security management.



CCTV at Tower Bridge is not only a tool for managing security but is also an essential tool for everyday operation of the bridge. When raising the bridge to allow vessels to pass through CCTV is used to ensure various safety measures are in place to protect the public and allow smooth, safe operation.

The heart of the security operation is a security control room from where operations are managed and activity on and around the bridge is monitored. As part of a plan to improve and upgrade facilities at the bridge it became necessary to relocate the control room. At this point Instrom was employed to assist in developing a design and plan to relocate the control room and upgrade the security systems to make them compatible with emerging requirements and the fast changing security demands.

A suitable location for a new control room was identified and Instrom developed a design for a state of the art facility to meet the needs of the security team, and to divert the security systems to the new location. As part of the project it was decided to take the opportunity to upgrade the main communication technology to an IP based network over a fibre optic backbone to form the basis of a resilient network that will allow future upgrades to be carried out economically and with ease.



Once the design for the control room and IP network was complete Instrom prepared a full set of tender documents to allow bids to be sought from suitable contractors. Once a contractor had been selected Instrom continued in the role of specialist advisor to ensure the work was completed to the required standard through to final witnessing and handover.

The completed control room now forms an integral part of the day to day management of activity at Tower Bridge.

For more information on how Instrom can help with your security needs, please contact us.

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