

RMS Named Primary Contractor

City of Chicago networks cameras in public schools

In a recent news conference, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley announced an ambitious plan—currently underway—that will link all Chicago public school camera systems to Chicago’s 911 center. In an emergency situation, responding officers also will be able to view real-time images from the school cameras, which will feed directly to laptops in police squad cars. Mayor Daley stated, “We will have a comprehensive school security system that will make it far easier for us to respond more quickly and effectively to any emergency at a school building. The key is getting the information to the police officer in their squad car.”

The cameras are owned by the Chicago Transit Authority and other public agencies. Federal funds totaling \$418,000 from the Department of Homeland Security are making the camera networking integration possible.

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— Mayor Richard M. Daley

Disparate systems require common platform

Prior to this integration project, school cameras were only monitored at Chicago’s Board of Education central office. Police Commander Jonathan Lewin, CPD’s technology chief commented, “Many of the schools have different types of systems....Some have systems over 10 years old. All [cameras] had to be integrated together to a common platform.”

RMS Technology Solutions, LLC of Buffalo Grove, IL is the primary technology integrator for this on-going project. Rick Rubenstein, President of RMS remarked, “We are pleased to oversee this important integration program and play a role in Mayor Daley’s vision to consolidate citywide surveillance that will provide widespread and efficient security for Chicago’s citizens.”

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At this time, cameras have been installed at about 200 of Chicago’s 650 public schools, including all high schools and several administrative buildings.