



SANT ANDREU DE LA BARCA TOWN COUNCIL

Digital recording of Council plenary sessions



Ajuntament
Sant Andreu de la Barca

Mission

Sant Andreu de la Barca, a south-eastern town, is twenty kilometres far from Barcelona, in the centre of the Catalan region of Baix Llobregat.

Nowadays, the town gathers more than 26,000 inhabitants.

Originally, the town council was provided with an audio-tape system to record the town plenary sessions and to further transcribe them through the Town-Council secretary. Lately, they audio recorded them and a CD with the session recordings was distributed to the elected representatives (21).

Objective

The objective was to record the Town-Council plenary sessions with the synchronised-audio-video option to be able to review the participant reactions to the proposals made and to lead a better follow-up of them. Another objective was to archive the recordings associated to a data base to make easier the retrieval with a view to substitute and improve the traditional system of audio-tape recording and further transcription.

The recordings will be considered as minutes by the Town-Council Secretary.



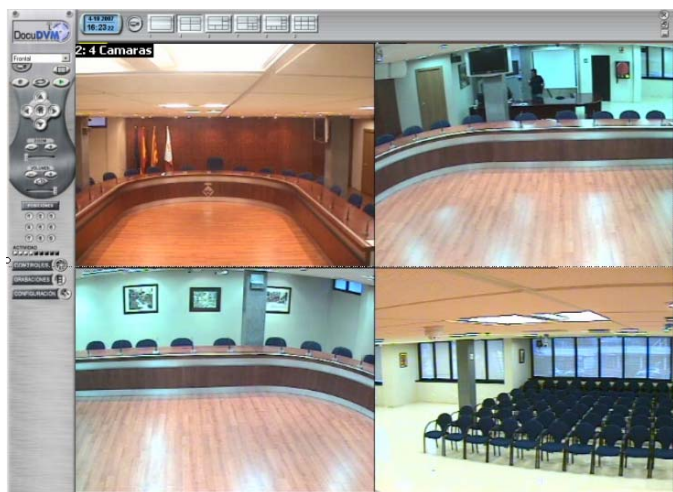
Solution

Information & Image Management Systems S.A. (I&IMS), presented a project to lead the recordings of the Town-Council plenary sessions with the DocuDVM (Digital Video Manager) content manager in MPEG-4 format, including video and audio.

Four coaxial Sony cameras, three fixed-type models and one camera with movement and zoom (PTZ) were installed in the Town-hall plenary session room. For its IP integration, we used an Axis 241QA Server with four video channels and a unique audio channel.



This option was selected since the client wanted to be able to separately record the four video channels or together in a unique multi-channel flow.



The cameras were installed in a strategic way in the room; every one focuses on the different sectors of it: presidency (1), councilers (2) and attending public (1).

In the DocuVDM software some prefixed positions on the PTZ camera were set with a view to set its position according to the participants in a given moment.

The client-customisable data base option was activated and associated to the recordings to make easier their retrieval, management and further display and review.

Institution profile

The Sant Andreu de la Barca Town Council realises the work of providing services to the town citizens and to manage its own town competencies or those delegated by other public organisations.

Results

The DocuVDM content-management system I&IMS proposed enables now the recording of all the town-council plenary sessions and the writing of the minutes thanks to the same recording, without any further review of any participant part.

They get a video and audio recording and distribute it on a DVD copy to the participants so that they have a trace of the plenary session. Another copy is archived in the Town-Council corporation network.

The Project success was such that the system use was extended and the objective is now to also record conferences, seminars and other events organised in the plenary room and amongst them, the civil weddings.



The Client

“The result is satisfactory because, now we do not distribute the DVD of the session any more as it was originally decided, but we directly publish it on the Town-Council Gateway and it can be consulted there”.

“If some years ago, our policy was to spare paper, now it is of all to go digital. Moreover, the immediate publishing of the information on our web site has generated less transcription or stamping work”, says Antonio Fraile, Computing and telecommunications manager of the Sant Andreu de la Barca Town Council.

Nowadays, the secretary works is only to write the agenda since the recordings are part of the plenary session minutes.

