

Norbain proves to be a safe bet in providing security equipment for Blackpool's new Paris Casino



The newly opened Paris Casino in Blackpool isn't just a stylish destination for discerning gamblers, it's also a lesson in impressive security. Top-of-the-range equipment has been installed to act as a deterrent and to provide peace of mind for both the casino and its customers. Pierre Coulon, owner of the Casino, has been greatly impressed by the quality of the products and service he's received.

And it all started because Pierre had a dream. To open a new Casino, based on a chic Parisian salon, close to the up and coming South Shore area in Blackpool. To ensure the smooth running of the operation, he knew that security was one of the most important elements of the project.

Having previously worked with local supplier Ace Security Systems UK Ltd (Ace), Mr Coulon knew that their knowledge and dedication to high quality work would be an asset to the endeavour. Ace, a family-run firm, was set up by Managing Director Barry Evans and his wife in 2001 and since then has been involved in a number of prestigious contracts in the Blackpool area.

"Working around an old, gutted building was not an easy task," explains Mr Evans. "It is easier to do a new building. In an old building like this you have to find routes where you can take the cabling floor to floor, and there is the fire aspect – you have to ensure that the safety procedures are followed at all times".

The tables were also re-positioned several times during the project, which meant that considerable flexibility was called for in locating and relocating the CCTV equipment.

The demands of security for the casino meant installing a top-of-the-range system, which in this case, was based around Sanyo fixed dome and PTZ dome cameras and Digital Video Recorders (DVRs).



In the casino room itself, there are ten high-definition JVC TKC920E hi-res colour fixed dome cameras, one above each gaming table, to give a detailed real-time view of action at each one. Two high-definition Sanyo VCC9300P internal colour PTZ domes provide an overview, zooming in to provide high-resolution, pinpoint detail when needed. VDD28V1214P 2.8mm-12mm direct drive varifocal Vista lenses have

been fitted to the cameras viewing the gaming tables. Vista VA35V814PE 3.5mm-8mm auto Iris varifocal lenses were supplied for the remaining cameras.



There are also two further JVC TKC920E fixed dome cameras trained on the cash desk, where visitors change cash for chips, and in the count room. Another fixed-dome camera covers the reception area, close to two Vista VPC9032/CM cameras used for ID purposes. Two further VPC9032/CM colour/mono Vista cameras, both with Dennard D2010 housings, cover the underground car park and provide a view of the front exterior of the property.

The 18 cameras are linked to a Sanyo MPX-CD162P 16 channel Colour Duplex multiplexer which hosts two Vista PVD1510DG monitors in the casino's control room and distributes both audio and video images, recorded in real time via RG59 cabling, to a bank of 18 networked 240GB Sanyo DSR-M800P 240GB single channel DVR units. A Sanyo VSP8000 joystick controller is used to provide manual control of the cameras and Sanyo VAC-SW800 software enables the DVR viewer to run on the PC.

A Vista WVRL27 24 hour time-lapse video recorder captures images from the sole, discreet fixed external camera. Further equipment includes a Vista VTD31 31 tape dispenser and two VCD9Le Vista multiplexers.

The DVRs can capture from a week to a month's worth of data depending on the definition required and the frame rate – at high definition and in real time. This particular system was configured to hold two weeks worth of data.

Mr Coulon says: "When we first got the system I was very impressed. We're not hiding it – it's there for the customers, and they too are very impressed."



All of the equipment was supplied through Norbain apart from the PC that controls the security network and a wireless tablet PC from Hewlett-Packard. Mr Evans says: "I always used Norbain in the last firm I worked for, I know the products and how good their solutions are. They are excellent. We've never had problems – if we need something, it's there, no question about it. If you ring them they will have your product to you by 9am the next morning, or earlier if you want."



The tablet PC plays an interesting role – it’s wirelessly linked to the security network and its software allows the user to view (and hear, through microphones embedded in the tables) all the action from any of the cameras covering the gaming tables. Downstairs, in the control room, the action is played live on the monitors – there is a ten-second delay on the tablet as the signals are sent through the network.

One of the tablet’s key uses is in case of any dispute – for instance, if a customer believes they have placed a bet on a particular number on the roulette table and the croupier has not seen it. This highly-portable mini-PC enables the manager to instantly provide, in front of the gambler at the gaming table, a real-time review of the play in question.

“There are two reasons for the CCTV”, states Mr Coulon. “For the customers’ assurance and for the staff. They are human, they can make mistakes, but the camera doesn’t lie and it is for the benefit of the customer as well as ourselves to have the system.

“There are also teams of people who visit casinos and try to dishonestly obtain money. The fact that we have such a system is a deterrent. It provides peace of mind both for the casino and for the customer. It is a fabulous piece of kit.

“It’s a very good system, we’re very pleased”, concludes Mr Coulon. “We had an audit by the Gaming Board recently and they were very impressed by the system too.”



About the Installer

Ace Security Systems Ltd are a family owned Security Installations Company who carry out installations, takeover and upgrades to Intruder Alarms, CCTV systems, Access Control Systems, Fire Systems, Locks and Safes. They also maintain these systems on a fully comprehensive contract basis, supported by their fully qualified team of 15.

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