

Case study: Beck's Hybirds

Landscape

Beck's Hybrids, a family-owned and -operated seed company that serves farmers in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky, found its current security system limiting, particularly as the company experienced continuous growth in the competitive agricultural industry. With standalone keypad locks on key areas at the corporate headquarters, Beck's had very little access control. Netch, an integrator of network systems, physical security and media solutions, introduced the concept of a wireless solution. Beck's decided to incorporate this more advanced security solution on its campus, beginning with its new state-of-the-art research facility under construction.

Desired outcome

The idea of a wireless system was attractive to Beck's for a couple reasons. For starters, wireless security provides true access control—with tracking, reporting and the ability to activate and deactivate locks right at the computer, which the stand-alone locks do not offer. "We knew with wireless, there would be a higher level of reporting and greater flexibility than ever before," says Brad Fruth, senior network/systems engineer. "That was something we'd evolved to and now needed."

The company was also moving to a fairly keyless culture and wanted locks that could work with pins, proximity cards and biometric units. Upgrading to wireless access would allow Beck's to assign credentials to each person rather than each door, saving both time and labor in programming and ongoing maintenance.



Solutions

Interior doors

Netech recommended the Schlage® AD Series as the central part of Beck's total security solution. Wireless AD-400 locks are installed on all interior doors in the new research facility.

"I recommended the AD-400 because it is the only wireless option that is non-proprietary and very reliable," says Don Goldenetz, Netech's project manager. "They are also easy to install because there is no need to pull all the cable required by wired locks."

Fruth considered the lock's configuration another benefit: "One piece mounts on the door and the lock can be configured in multiple ways, all depending on the need of the opening," he explains.

The AD-locks are paired with the MIFARE® smart cards. Because MIFARE is difficult to duplicate, Goldenetz says it provides a higher level of security. Beck's can also use MIFARE for security on computer and other applications beyond door locks.

Perimeter doors

Netech equipped Beck's main perimeter doors with hand geometry readers and outdoor enclosures. Schlage's Hand Geometry Readers verify a user's personal identification in a matter of seconds to enhance security before an individual even gains access to the building. A blue hand outline on the platen makes enrollment easy and reduces errors during verification. The biometric template is managed via the access control system, making it simple to add and delete users. Plus, the system offers expandable memory options to support up to 200,000 users.

The biometric hand geometry readers are paired with Von Duprin electrified panic bars for safe egress.

Perimeter Doors

A handful of back and side doors are also equipped with Schlage readers to prohibit access by anyone except facilities personnel.



Result

“The wireless AD-400 became the standard for Beck’s,” Goldenetz says. After the success of the new research facility, Beck’s is adding the locks to new construction—including its newest facility in Kentucky—as well as any retrofits. The corporate headquarters, for example, is now outfitted with wireless AD-400 locks and hand geometry units.

“Every door on the system is centrally managed and easily controlled. We may have spent more on the front end by choosing this option, but the long-term savings more than outweighs that initial investment,” says Fruth. “Plus, we have the convenience and flexibility of being able to click one button to lock down all doors, or unlock a door remotely from home, which puts even more control and security in our hands.”



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