

ISONAS™ Joins Forces with Open Options & MTS To Deliver an Open Platform Solution; Shows the Power of Choice in Physical Security

A top-rated school district located in NJ houses a student population of over 8000 currently enrolled in K-12 and employs the faculty to support this growing student body, which includes approximately 1,500 full and part-time employees. With a diverse and expanding student population, faculty and facilities, safety is a top priority for the district along with academic excellence. A strict safety and security policy was implemented long before it was required and the school was nationally recognized in the past for being proactive. One of these security practices included implementing an ID system where students were required to wear ID cards at all times. As an early adopter of this type of security technology, the school continues to be a step ahead of other districts. With a large district that consists of 11 schools which are geographically dispersed; securing the schools on a unified solution was imperative.

In 2018, with three of the 11 schools utilizing three disparate access control systems, some of which were 10-years-old, the school knew they had to upgrade their system. The NJ school looked to their trusted security consultant, MTS Intelligent Security Solutions (MTS) to advise them on the access control solution that could provide the right security for their diverse and growing population.

The Challenge

The school district is comprised of 11 schools across 13 buildings, all within a 6-mile radius and securing each door on one unified platform was a huge challenge for the school district. The district needed to secure over 300 doors and manage access rights for 1500 employees. MTS knew it needed an enterprise-level solution that embraced a future-proof technology. MTS was looking for a best-of-breed solution that could be customized to fit the unique needs of the school. With a large campus, the district needed a unified video management and access control system that would allow them to monitor their facilities, control access and protect more doors within their budget. This unified system would need to ensure a closed, highly secure campus and monitor all egress points and activities. The disperse geography of the district also required a system where an individual school administrator had the autonomy and flexibility to manage their individual school access, while the district had access globally to administer the entire district. Integrating the system with the Human Resources database was also an important factor to the school as they wanted to ensure user entry and creation were done as efficiently as possible from a single system interface.



MTS was on a mission to deploy an integrated system that was flexible, scalable, easier to install and operate in a school environment and did not lock the school into a proprietary, closed solution. With their deep knowledge of ISONAS, MTS knew where to turn in order to find the right Pure IP solution to meet the school's security needs.

ISONAS and Open Options Deliver Best-in-class Access Control Solution with Open Platform Hardware and Software

Due to the established relationship and familiarity with the ISONAS Pure IP access control hardware solution, MTS was able to respond quickly to the school's upgrade needs and customize a solution to meet their requirements. A multi-phased installation introduced ISONAS's Pure IP reader-controllers and the DNA Fusion software from Open Options to the school district. With a security-conscience mindset the school district agreed to a district-wide architecture that covered all egress points and could be managed from a centralized software platform.

One of the school's existing access control systems was the ISONAS solution, consisting of the RC-03 reader-controllers and a legacy software. The school liked the simplicity of the all-in-one reader-controller from ISONAS and knew that this was the future of access control. When the legacy software came to its official end of life, the school chose to migrate to ISONAS's software partner Open Options and utilize their DNA Fusion software to drive their access control groups, rules and schedules. They also chose to standardize on the open architecture hardware from ISONAS with their RC-04 reader controller for the expansion to the additional buildings and doors. With the simple nature of a Pure IP installation, the school was able to upgrade their access control system seamlessly by using this phased approach.

"ISONAS gets it and understands what a true Pure IP access control solution should be and is the reason my company got back in the access control game," states Robert Merchant, President of MTS Intelligent Security Solutions. "ISONAS is the first access control company that dared to step away from traditional architecture and developed a solution from the ground up. It is refreshing to see a true commitment to technology innovation." With 300 reader controllers currently installed in 12 of the 13 buildings; the next phase will consist of having all doors secured by the end of 2019—approximately 350 doors within all 13 buildings.

With the power of the open platform from DNA Fusion, the school was able to leverage their existing hardware investment, integrate to its VMS platform, MTS's SecurOS, and manage their access control and video events in a unified system. DNA Fusion also allowed them to integrate their human resource database, providing a single point of user entry streamlining enrollment. "Today's end users understand that deploying open architecture is a wise investment not only for the future of their security system, but for the ability to connect numerous supporting technologies to their access control platform, thereby enhancing their facility's overall security," said Ben Vestal, Vice President of Sales at Open Options. "Our DNA Fusion access control platform is extremely customizable, scalable and user-friendly enough to fit any need."

With all the right solution partners in place, MTS was able to work in tandem with ISONAS and Open Options to provide a state-of-the-art access control solution in no time, creating a win-win situation for all.

Open platform systems provide customers choice; choice to select the right solution to meet their needs across hardware and software solutions. Open platform solutions help customers avoid a rip and replace solution and allows them to leverage previous investments. The entire school district saved significantly by leveraging their previous hardware devices and choosing future proof solution. This unified system has given the school a very powerful access control solution that offers situational awareness and a safer environment for all students and school personnel for years to come. Future plans include adding ISONAS readers to an additional 50 doors and having all egress points 100% secured with this best-in-class, powerful access control solution.