

Amazon Film Studios

CHALLENGE

In late 2019, Optic Security Group was selected by Amazon Film Studios to provide electronic security solutions to physically safeguard the filming of the Lord of the Rings – projected to be the biggest budget series in the history of television.

A project of this profile and scale was always going to be complex, with production equipment, intellectual property, cast, crew, and contractors to protect across several sprawling Middle Earth locations. Adding to the complexity were the unique sets of challenges thrown up by each of the sites, and that we had our work cut out for us to deliver integrated electronic security systems and a range of physical security structures prior to Day One of filming!

PARTNERSHIP

Optic's then Key Account Manager (now National Sales Manager) Mike Nugent showcased Optic's capabilities in providing end-to-end converged security solutions underpinned by a solid Enterprise Security Risk Management (ESRM) methodology. Understanding the client's specific risk context, including an assessment of their risk appetite, business goals, and threat landscape enabled Mike to conceptualise solutions tailored to managing the film studios' security risks.

During the course of 2020, Mike worked closely with the local Amazon Studio Security Team to implement the initial design concept (which was kept **agile in order to accommodate potential changes in scope**), and ultimately to successfully deliver the project.

Optic implemented **Gallagher access control** across several sites managed from a central control point, integrated with **Milestone VMS (Video Management System)**. Partnering with an external contractor to **secure perimeters and access/egress points**, the team installed **automated vehicle barriers, pedestrian safe walkway barriers, 2N IP intercoms, and over 200 internal and external Axis CCTV cameras**, including high profile **PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) cameras** and incorporating a **CCTV thermal fence**.

The solution involved **hosting Milestone VMS in Amazon Web Services (AWS)** in its entirety, which we understand to be a New Zealand first!



VALUE ADD

A complex undertaking, this project called for novel solutions to a range of challenges. One of the more curious among them was the need to deploy video surveillance temporarily in hard-to-get-to filming locations. The answer was heli-lift capable trailer-mounted CCTV units. They weren't available in the market, so Optic had them designed and built.

The hosting of the VMS on AWS was another innovation that provided the production with strong off-premise business continuity and remote management capability.

Critical to Optic's success in safeguarding the security of production was the ability to harness great relationships. In addition to developing a close and collaborative relationship with the Amazon team, Mike utilised partner relationships to deliver an end-to-end solution involving a level of civil works and bespoke fabrication not ordinarily seen in an electronic security installation project.

Optic's Enterprise Security Risk Management approach can deliver end-to-end management of your security and safety risks – from identifying and assessing the risks and understanding what you are needing to protect, to mitigating the risks with the right solutions and ensuring they remain always fit-for-purpose.