

## **SIMS Metal protects their salvage yards while complying with government regulations using Milestone IP video from Ojo Technology.**

**“Utilizing an IPVS solution has allowed us to stay ahead of the local, state and federal compliance regulations by visually identifying all individuals whom we purchase scrap materials from.”**

Roger Lambert, Regional IT Director  
SIMS Metal, Northern California



### **Challenges:**

SIMS Metal of California needed a 24-hour a day monitoring solution to deter theft within their outdoor salvage yards that cover wide-open areas at many of their facilities. They also required the ability to track all incoming vehicles and individuals at their locations to comply with the ever changing Government regulations regarding the identification of all individuals selling scrap metal materials.

### **Solution:**

Ojo Technology in Fremont, CA, designed a video surveillance solution tailored for the specific open area environments utilizing Sony network cameras that accommodated exposure to the outside elements. The system is managed by Milestone XProtect™ Enterprise IP video management software with a user-friendly interface for viewing live or recorded images and exporting raw source files as evidence. The solution provides upper management with direct access to all seven of their installed facilities both centrally and remotely, with fast search-and-find capability of recorded video.

### **Advantages:**

SIMS Metal reports high satisfaction and ease-of-use with the software interface and on-demand accessibility to all cameras and video, allowing for quick recovery of video feed within minutes. Utilizing the management features in the Milestone software, controls are in place for various levels of management to gain access to their authorized yards.

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SIMS Metal is a division of SIMS Group Corporation, internationally operating public metal recycling facilities that turn unwanted metals into raw materials for manufacturing operations around the world. They operate over 90 facilities nationwide with 12 of them located within Northern California.

In recent years they have experienced added challenges coming from theft: there has been a tremendous increase in the illegal acquisition and selling of stolen raw materials, due to the rising demand and prices paid for non-ferrous metals such as brass, chrome and copper. These metals are being stripped and removed from public works facilities, construction sites and private retail business and being sold to recycling yards. In certain instances, materials have reportedly been stolen from the SIMS metal yards only to be re-sold back to them within the same week!

In 2006, SIMS began installing the first of seven IP video surveillance systems starting with their largest facilities, with the goal being to track individuals selling materials to their offices, to monitor activity in the main yards and payment offices to minimize thefts and illegal activities.

**IP technology for monitoring multiple locations and outdoor areas**

“With many of our facilities covering several acres of land, including truck scales and office areas, an IP system was the best solution to meet our specific needs,” explains Lambert.

Ojo Technology installed a new security solution based on Milestone XProtect IP video software to manage the numerous Sony network cameras in seven of the twelve facilities located within California.

This solution allows authorized staff to access the system to view both live and recorded video—centrally, locally or remotely. The video is easy and fast to search by location, date or time, and images can be exported for evidence to resolve any incidences quickly. In certain cases SIMS has been able to resolve conflicts fast pertaining to claims of payment shortages at the truck scales by reviewing video to determine the accuracy of their scales.

Personnel monitor video activity on an as-needed basis. Video surveillance actively runs 24/7 with two weeks of video feed being stored. Although automatic alerts are a feature set with the XProtect software, this functionality has not yet been activated but can easily be initiated.

**Open platform software allows hardware mix for best-of-breed solution**

Each location currently has 8 – 24 installed network cameras combining both Sony and IQinvision models to support the various indoor and outdoor exposure demands. Milestone XProtect is open platform software that supports such a mix of camera brands. The camera locations include the entrances, exits, main storage yards, truck scales, front offices, ATM machines and ship loading areas with yards near water ports. All locations are running Dell servers with the larger facilities using Promise VTrak archival units, storing up to 8 TB of video.

**Measurable return on investment and evidence used in court**

Lambert reports: “With the IPVS system we are able to effectively identify and catalog all suppliers and their vehicles whom we purchase scrap materials from while providing physical evidence to help local authorities in the apprehension of criminal suspects. We can also quickly resolve any payment discrepancy claims resulting from improper placement of vehicles on our truck scales.



He continues: "Additionally this solution provides increased safety for our staff by monitoring front office activities where all cash transactions take place. Since the installation of the IPVS system, we captured a robbery that took place at a local facility just before opening, where the manager on duty had been assaulted during the incident. Video evidence was exported and provided to local authorities to aid in the criminal trial."

Ojo Technology's IPVS Security Solutions Advisor, Bob Bisetti, describes the overall setup: "SIMS previously had an inadequate system that was poorly managed. The IPVS solution provided them with tightened-down security, with all critical areas being captured on camera. With this system SIMS can stop the loss of inventory they may have otherwise had to write off."

### **Expert advice and understanding of the needs**

"Our overall experience with Ojo Technology has been very positive. We were introduced to Ojo through our physical security vendor. We found the Ojo staff members to be very attentive and readily available to assist at every turn. Their knowledge of this technology and the various aspects of situational environments helped us to implement the right solution for our needs".

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Ojo Technology is a Certified Milestone Partner. This means that they have had special training in the XProtect Enterprise IP video management software solution, a fact that ensures greater expertise in surveillance installations and improved customer satisfaction.

Learn more at [www.ojotech.com](http://www.ojotech.com), [www.suhsd.net](http://www.suhsd.net), and [www.milestonesys.com](http://www.milestonesys.com).

