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Postal Service shifting to IP-based video surveillance

By [Jacob Goodwin, Editor-in-Chief](#), Government Security News

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The U.S. Postal Service is planning a substantial shift from analog video surveillance cameras to TCP/IP-based digital video cameras at postal facilities across the country.

The surveillance systems at post offices and other mail facilities are intended to combat robberies and burglaries, indoors and outdoors, during days and nights, according to a detailed statement of work issued by the postal service on February 14.

"The systems provided shall be open standards TCP/IP (IP) based and designed for the efficient and effective management, display, recording and transmission of video information," said the statement of work, which did not specify the number of new surveillance systems the postal service intends to procure.

The USPS indicated that the server hardware and client workstations should be based on products supplied by [Hewlett-Packard](#) and that the network infrastructure hardware and accessory devices should be based on products supplied by [Cisco Systems, Inc.](#)

The postal service is looking for systems integrators that will install the video cameras, install the necessary software and licensing components, configure the networking equipment, and provide the necessary training for specific projects at specific postal locations.

Looking toward the future, USPS specified that all new systems must be built on open architecture. "All system components using software, either disk or ROM based, shall include open licensing, such that the system may be expanded or reconfigured without any requirements to re-license, register, or configure any license keys, files, or software," says the statement of work.

In addition, the USPS insists that all new surveillance systems be compatible with both the current IPv4 network architecture and the latest IPv6 version. "As per OMB mandate, any IT product or component that shall operate on, or interface with, the U.S. Postal Service network must be IPv6 compliant," said the statement of work.

The turn-key video surveillance procurements will be managed by what's called the Joint Criminal Investigative Systems Program Group, which will be comprised of representatives from the postal service's inspection service and inspector general's office.

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