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City networks utility security

Four-service public utility ties together systems at 150+ locations

By SCOTT MARCOUX

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—Colorado Springs Utilities, the city's four-service utility agency, is networking security systems across its infrastructure in a multi-year, multi-million dollar project.

CSU, which provides water, wastewater treatment, gas and electric services to more than 400,000 metered customers, hired Stanley Security Solutions to upgrade electronic security to integrate access control for



Colorado Springs Utilities is networking security at water, wastewater, gas and electrical facilities.

150 to 200 of Colorado Springs' roughly 300 facilities. Locations included in the project range

from power plants and water treatment sites, to electrical substations and water mains delivering water from sources outside the city.

The agency is self-funding the project, already two years in the making, for an undisclosed sum.

Among the first components installed was a new 24-hour control center from which utility personnel monitor various locations, Brandt Laird, security administrator for CSU, said.

Laird said that some of the city's high-profile neighbors make those utility sites more tempting.

"We have five military installations nearby, including NORAD," he said, referring to the North American Aerospace Defense Command site located in the region. "It's an ideal area (for terrorists) to hit."

The agency, he added, also provides backup power for some of those installations. **SDN**