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NAVY PIER® UNVEILS NEW HIGH-TECH SECURITY COMMAND CENTER

MPEA joins the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC) and IBM in delivering the world's first intelligent networked video system for public safety

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CHICAGO – Officials with the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) and the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) today unveiled Navy Pier's new state-of-the-art Command Center, which will be linked to hundreds of high-tech surveillance cameras as well as the City's 911 Center. This is the first phase of a project to extend the coverage of security cameras along Chicago's lakefront and waterways.

"The MPEA takes the safety and security of visitors to Navy Pier and McCormick Place very seriously. We consider this to be one of the finest security command centers of its kind," said Juan Ochoa, MPEA Chief Executive Officer.

Navy Pier attracts more than 8 million visitors a year and Ochoa feels it is critical that it be equipped with the most advanced technology possible to help respond to any kind of incident.

The camera installation was funded by \$4.2 million of a \$7.5 million grant received in 2006 under the "Port Security Grant Program" of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to improve the City's capabilities to prevent, protect, respond and recover from a terrorist incident along the lakefront and the Chicago River.

"We thank the federal government and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin for providing the funds that made this security upgrade possible," said Ochoa.

The more than 200 cameras around Navy Pier increase video security capability and provide streaming video for live viewing. Completion of the project gives the City a fully integrated video monitoring system that extends visibility along the perimeter of the Pier and its entrance and exits. It also provides better face recognition technology than previous surveillance equipment.

In addition to the cameras themselves, the system includes emergency call buttons placed around the Pier and a new command center. The system is accessible by OEMC and by the Police Department Marine Unit, which is the City's first responder for water-related incidents.

Partners for this "Port Security Grant Program" included OEMC, the Chicago Police Department, the Chicago Fire Department, *IBM* and MPEA, the owner and operator of Navy Pier and the McCormick Place® Convention Center.

In collaboration with MPEA, *IBM (NYSE: IBM)* designed, built and implemented one of the world's most advanced, fully-integrated network video monitoring system, which utilizes new high-resolution cameras with far and wide range viewing capabilities to add situational awareness throughout the Pier and operational assistance during an incident. At the heart of the solution is a state-of-the-art network of cameras from business partner, *Axis Communications*, and advanced Internet Protocol (IP)-based video recording and system software from business partner, *Genetec*.

"*IBM's* video monitoring system allows us to better serve and protect a facility that is both a vital economic engine for the City of Chicago and a beloved family destination," said Ochoa.

IBM's breakthrough Smart Surveillance Solution (SSS) technology allows state-of-the-art video analytics to monitor the waterway and alert security personnel when unauthorized boats approach restricted areas.

Phase Two of this project will include coverage around other lakefront landmark venues, such as McCormick Place, Soldier Field, and miles of beaches and harbors.

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