



## SYSTIMAX® Solutions

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**Ron Wiseman**  
IT manager, Colorado DOC

## High-Tech and High-Security: Network Security and Safety Take New Meaning at Colorado State Penitentiary II

The Colorado State Penitentiary (CSP) in Canon City, Colorado, has long been recognized as a leader in the management of high-risk offenders. As a Level V security correctional institution for adult male offenders, the CSP houses some of the state’s most violent, dangerous and disruptive offenders. CSP inmates are restricted to their individual cells alone for the majority of their imprisonment in the facility. Any transportation outside of the cell requires the accompaniment of two armed officers in addition to inmate restraints. These stringent security requirements and constant need for supervision make maintaining the prison staff quite a challenge.

To make staff demands even higher, the Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC) has been beyond prisoner capacity with an additional 750 high-security inmates entering the prison system since 2000 without any additional high-security cells created. A new facility was needed to meet the growing population demands of the state prison system. In order to reduce the long-term costs of operating and managing the facility, the Colorado DOC recognized the opportunity to integrate the newest technologies to increase the safety of the prison and the staff.

In order to meet the stringent security demands and limit the amount of time and resources spent transporting inmates to and from visitations, the Colorado DOC looked to technology to provide virtual resources, as well as remote connectivity to each cell. The Colorado DOC entrusted LINX, a leading security solutions design firm and a CommScope Elite BusinessPartner, to provide the design, project management and product installation for the new "supermax" penitentiary. LINX is known for producing high-quality IP-based security systems and tailored project management services before, during and after system implementation.

CommScope had been the choice for previous networking and cabling projects by the Colorado DOC and LINX, so there was no doubt that they would be the logical partner for the CSP II.

On September 1, 2007, the Colorado DOC broke ground on the \$162 million, 200,000 square-foot CSP II. The new "supermax" penitentiary would serve as relief for the state's high-security prison system and become the most connected high-security prison.

### **CommScope Delivers High Speed Infrastructure to High-risk Prison**

Security regulations like background checks for all installers entering the facility, secure tool specifications and no visible cords within cells often prevent network infrastructure vendors from working with high-security prisons. But CommScope welcomed the opportunity to deliver a truly industry-unique, high-performance system. Installing more than 700,000 feet of cabling throughout the new facility, CommScope was able to power 1 Gb transfer speeds to each video kiosk in each cell with the future capability to support 10 Gb, 40 Gb and 100 Gb applications that demand more network bandwidth.

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In order to meet the high bandwidth demands required by the several real-time streaming video feeds going in and out of each of the 943 cells in the facility, Linx installed two Category 6A cables through conduit in the cement walls into each individual cell. In addition to providing a seamless video experience for officers, inmates, lawyers and visitors from remote visitor service centers, this helped future-proof the installation for emerging bandwidth-intensive applications the CSP II might want to integrate into the system.

## **CommScope and Colorado DOC ensure the Safety of the Prison Officers of Today and Tomorrow**

In addition to supporting the current bandwidth needs of the prison, CommScope needed to ensure the facility's installation also could withstand the multiple higher bandwidth needs of the future. With plans to support additional applications such as a digital library, online continuing education programs and even streaming video court appearances, the facility was already exceeding its initial needs when construction began. The KITE system — used for allowing inmates to request facility resources such as library books, doctor consultations and dentist appointments — was also being converted to a digital delivery format that would utilize the communications infrastructure. Noting the continuously expanding network needs of the prison, CommScope ensured that the installation was prepared to cover all of the CSP II's immediate and future high bandwidth application needs.

"When we initially started looking at what we needed to install, we were going to go with standard Category 6 cabling; however, after we started discussing the project with the solutions experts at CommScope and further assessing our immediate and future needs, it became apparent that we needed to go with a Category 6A Solution to ensure we could support ourselves in the future," said Wiseman.

When the CSP II opened its doors in the summer of 2010, it was the first of its kind. No other high-security prison had leveraged technology and network infrastructure to incorporate these types of multiple high-bandwidth applications to enhance security and streamline day-to-day operations. As a result of the Colorado DOC's foresight, LINX's project management, installation practices and CommScope's expertise, the staff of CSP II is now able to effectively and efficiently manage inmates and operations from the safety of a computer terminal. Regarded as an example of the future of high-security prisons throughout the world, the CSP II facility leverages technological innovation and advanced networking infrastructure to provide a safer environment for the brave officers that work in the facility.



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CA-B-44 04/11