AT&T Business



Capturing progress, one frame at a time

Business needs

Fast and reliable connectivity for time-lapse camera operations

Networking solution

AT&T 5G for business
AT&T Control Center

Business value

Breakthrough technology helps monitor and document construction site operations

Industry focus

Construction

Size

5,000 cameras deployed in 55 countries

About PhotoSentinel

PhotoSentinel has revolutionized the construction industry with its time-lapse camera innovations. It delivers advanced, reliable solutions that empower project managers, operations teams, and public sector leaders. The company's 24-megapixel cameras render professional documentation and real-time oversight—saving travel time and reducing costs while improving project control and accountability.

The situation

The business needed reliable wireless connectivity to collect, share, and manage project data.

Solution

PhotoSentinel chose robust AT&T 5G[1] connectivity to support its revolutionary solutions.

[1] Req's compatible plan & device. Coverage not available everywhere. Learn more at att.com/5Gforyou.

PhotoSentinel remotely monitors construction job sites to create time-lapse videos that condense months-long construction projects into minutes-long movies. The company has offices in Colorado, Australia, and Dubai, and more than 5,000 cameras deployed across 55 countries.

"PhotoSentinel was founded with a vision to revolutionize construction monitoring through innovative technology and solutions," said PhotoSentinel Business Development Manager Ross Harrington.

"That's the storytelling and marketing aspect, and then you have the monitoring side. That's what project managers, owners, and other key stakeholders want to be able to see in real time from their phone or computer, or through our software platform. PhotoSentinel lets them remotely see what's happening on their project."

The solution delivers vital data to stakeholders. "It makes sure you're staying on schedule. Sequencing, verification of work performed, and dispute resolution are the things that keep people coming back," he said. "Keeping projects on time, on track, and on budget is a big thing."

PhotoSentinel's livestream delivers sharp and clear views of construction sites, improving oversight and efficient project management. The solution captures crisp 24MP images every 10 minutes. This enables project managers and other stakeholders to verify project milestones. It gives them never-before-seen visibility. The system also produces time-lapse videos that showcase a project's evolution.

Seeing more, solving faster

PhotoSentinel also makes it easier for companies to resolve disputes. "The camera takes a photo every 10 minutes throughout construction of the project and then immediately uploads it, so you have a timestamp record of the project," Harrington explained.

If a problem arises, it's easy to review the photos. "If there were an issue like cracking concrete, they can go back and see which part of the process created the problem," Harrington adds. "There's weather data in the photo so they can see, for example, that the temperature may have been too cold when they poured the concrete, that they should never have poured it in that temperature. And that's why this problem happened."

Sometimes comparing photos can shed light on a problem. "If there's a water-pooling issue, you can overlay photos from February and April to see the problem. Maybe the rebar was not put down properly and that's why the water is pooling. You peel back the onion to be able to see what happened throughout the project, retroactively," he said.

Construction monitoring and beyond

PhotoSentinel's founders started thinking about the technology during the dot-com boom of the early 2000s. They wondered about the value of connecting a high-resolution digital SLR camera to the internet. "It would be cellular-connected and solar powered, not requiring a photographer to physically be at the sites to get the high-resolution images. So that's where it started," Harrington said.

It seemed to be a solution that would greatly benefit the construction market, so the company initially focused on using it to document construction projects. "As time passed, the market told us that companies care about the ongoing monitoring side as well. If I'm an owner, I want to be able to be in California and see what's happening in my project in Texas," he explained.

PhotoSentinel founders set out to design a solution that would meet the needs of corporate giants as well as small construction contractors. "We needed to connect it to the internet and to a cellular provider, especially here in the U.S. to start with," Harrington said. Finding the right provider was an early challenge.



The search for a reliable network

The company considered several communications vendors. "The real reason we went to AT&T is that we need a cellular provider that is scalable for us, where we can manage everything through a portal," Harrington explained.

AT&T Control Center is a cloud-based platform for managing Internet of Things (IoT) devices and machine-to-machine connectivity. It fit the bill with an easy-to-use dashboard that enables PhotoSentinel to turn subscriber identity modules (SIMs) on and off as needed. A SIM is what connects each camera to the AT&T network, allowing it to send photos and data from the job site.

In addition, PhotoSentinel requires a reliable network. "We need to know that these SIMs can be deployed practically anywhere and have them work. Sometimes construction happens where there's very little infrastructure, so that is why we reached out to AT&T," Harrington said.

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> **Ross Harrington, Business Development Manager, PhotoSentinel**

The company initially considered several vendors, including some from outside the U.S. "We had conversations with different providers, but ultimately, AT&T was the easiest to work with, and it just made sense."

Harrington said he's impressed by the reliability of the AT&T network. "Of all the things we value, reliability is the most important, and so we needed to work with a vendor that also has a strong, reliable network. That's probably the number-one thing."

Connectivity management supports growth

AT&T Control Center provides PhotoSentinel with real-time visibility, security, and analytics. The control center makes it possible to deploy and manage devices globally from anywhere. It helps make the company's worldwide enterprise simpler and more efficient.

"The dashboard lets us scale up to manage our growth, so that's great. And that has been another huge reason why we've continued to be able to grow. With AT&T, we can have projects anywhere from the Bahamas to Australia to all over Europe, because we have a platform that can scale with us."

AT&T Control Center has made life easier at PhotoSentinel. "The ability to view all of our SIM cards and IoT plans in one spot has been really valuable through that dashboard," Harrington said.

He also appreciates the knowledge and helpfulness of his AT&T Business account manager. "He does a great job. The AT&T team is responsive and if somebody doesn't know the answer, they escalate it to people who do, so we've had a good experience with AT&T," Harrington said.

PhotoSentinel is also pleased with the dependability of AT&T Business services. "I would say the biggest benefit is network reliability and coverage strength," Harrington added. "AT&T has a good coverage map,[2] and we appreciate the scalability. AT&T has done a good job of continuing to work with us as we grow and scale."

[2] Coverage isn't guaranteed and is subject to change without notice.

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