

Cameras enhance view at Vegas' greatest show on earth

By RHIANNA DANIELS

LAS VEGAS—CircusCircus Las Vegas Hotel and Casino has a new view of its Slots-A-Fun gaming area with eight cameras that provide a 360-degree look, giving personnel an enhanced view of the gaming area.

The surveillance team at the casino identified Ipix's 360-degree technology as the solution to a problem: Slots-A-Fun was built with low ceilings, making it difficult for surveillance to get a clear picture of the entire area where many marketing distractions, such as large signs and palm trees, block a clear view.

"In a casino environment, you have a lot of obstacles in getting good direct line of sight," said Conrad Steffen, director of surveillance at CircusCircus. "There are signs on top of slot machines, flashing lights and palm trees. If you have a really high ceiling then the effect of that signage is sometimes minimized, but with low ceilings, those signs become a real problem in getting good camera coverage."

Although the cameras will be used for surveillance and security purposes, Steffen said these specific units, which are 2 Megapixel cameras, are better suited for security purposes since surveillance tasks and the gaming commission rules require higher resolution cameras in certain cases.

For example, the team would need a high-resolution picture when zooming in on a gaming table to watch chips and money change hands. Steffen said he would look to add a higher resolution 360-degree camera to serve this purpose if it becomes available.

For Ipix, the installation — completed by manufacturer and integrator Sentry 360 — at CircusCircus is the company's first foray into the gaming market. Clara Conti, president and CEO of the company, said the technology is a good fit for the casino market considering its 360-view and its cost effectiveness considering roughly one of Ipix's cameras can cover an area four fixed cameras would normally need to cover.

"The other cost effective measure is that it doesn't have many moving parts," she said. "(End users) are spending an extraordinary amount of money on cameras with moving parts. With our cameras there are no moving parts."

With nearly one person walking through the casino's doors every three seconds, the ability to cover a large area with one camera assists the surveillance and security departments in reducing theft and risks.

"The overriding goal of surveillance and security is to protect corporate assets," Steffen said. "The gaming control that regulates our industry wants to make sure the gaming environment provides for the public trust and that we are operating a crime-free zone."



CircusCircus added 360-degree cameras from Ipix to enhance its security and surveillance operations.