2014 will be one of the most exciting years in Glasgow’s history. In July and August Glasgow, which is also the fourth biggest city in the UK, hosted the 2014 Commonwealth Games, a major international sport event with sportsmen and visitors from all members of the Commonwealth of Nations. Alongside the Games, the city also hosted three 60,000-capacity open-air concerts during Radio 1’s Big Weekend and will also be home to the 20th MTV Europe Music Awards (EMA) in November.

To manage these major events and the daily city traffic safety and smoothly Glasgow has built the Glasgow Operations Center (GOC), one of the biggest control centres for traffic and security surveillance in the UK. On 85 55in displays from eyevis over 2,000 IP camera signals from Community Safety Glasgow and Traffic Control & Management Glasgow can be monitored and controlled. There state-of-the-art technique is in use to make life in the city smarter and safer.

The facility brings together teams from Community Safety Glasgow’s (CSG) CCTV operation and Traffcom – the Glasgow City Council team which monitors the city’s road network including traffic lights and traffic cameras. The different strands of PSCTV, the emergency services, traffic management and environmental control are pulled together under one roof. With the facilities now pooled, CSG and Traffcom have joint access to the city’s entire network of CCTV & traffic cameras. The council has found that the majority of Traffcom cameras (86%) are trained on areas previously not covered by CSG. Similarly, 32% of CSG’s cameras now benefit Traffcom operations.

The GOC shall be an ongoing project that will be extended steadily. In April 2014 after six weeks of operation only phase 1 was implemented. Phase 2 will mark the installation of significant upgrades to new digital cameras, new interactive mapping systems, traffic system upgrades and video analytics. Staff at CSG believe the true benefits of the centre, in terms of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, will be seen in the next phases of the project once the new technology upgrades have been integrated.

The GOC is housed in a modern office building, built two years previously. The different strands of PSCTV, the emergency services, traffic management and environmental control are pulled together under one roof. With the facilities now pooled, CSG and Traffcom have joint access to the city’s entire network of CCTV & traffic cameras. The council has found that the majority of Traffcom cameras (86%) are trained on areas previously not covered by CSG. Similarly, 32% of CSG’s cameras now benefit Traffcom operations.

The real muscle of the operation is handled next door to the GOC in the server room, where 11x eyevis Netpix 4800 series video wall controllers, incorporating 65 daisy chained IPD32 decoders sit in racks, hard at work. Each one is capable of managing 32 D1 (720 × 576 resolution) IP streams, which gives the GOC the ability to handle up to almost 2,100 different feeds at once. This technology allows Glasgow to approach major events with confidence.