Case Study:

Georgia Southern University

SARGENT Passport 1000 P1 Locks and PERSONA Campus Software Provide An Integrated Solution for Georgia Southern University's Specialized Security Needs

Founded in 1906, Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA has grown to become one of the largest colleges in the state. With the recent addition of two new 70,000- and 25,000-square-foot student dining facilities, the campus continues to grow.

SARGENT Manufacturing, an ASSA ABLOY Group brand, provided a security solution featuring Passport 1000 P1 Power over Ethernet (PoE) access control locks and PERSONA Campus software for the new facilities. This solution offered seamless integration with the university's student ID card system and used the existing IT infrastructure.

During the selection process, GSU's Richard Wynn had a very specific wish list, with very specific requirements – but at first, didn't know how or even if they could be met. Wynn is the director of the university's Eagle Card Program. It's a one-card system where students are given an Eagle Card that serves as an ID, financial transaction, library and meal card, and access control credential. "Everyone on campus has an Eagle Card, and you essentially can't get anywhere or do anything without it," said Wynn. "Any security system we installed in the new dining facilities would have to revolve around the Eagle Card."

Georgia Southern University already had a campus-wide electronic access control system in place, based around Power over Ethernet (PoE) connectivity, and the system would have to expand to accommodate the two new buildings. Equally important, the new buildings would have to tie in with GSU's Blackboard Transact™ commerce and security management platform, used throughout the campus wherever an Eagle Card is presented. "We needed a system that would meet all our requirements – work

with the Eagle Card, our existing PoE infrastructure and Blackboard Transact," Wynn emphasized. "We spoke to a number of security consultants and when we explained our situation to PERSONA, they informed us the company had two products that would fit the bill perfectly – the SARGENT Passport 1000 P1 PoE lock and the companion PERSONA Campus software."

The Passport 1000 P1 IP-enabled PoE lock is available with any combination of magnetic stripe reader, multiCLASS SE® contactless reader, keypad and key override, in cylindrical lock, mortise lock and exit device configurations. No separate power supply is required and the lock provides real-time monitoring and auditing.

"Naturally before we gave the go-ahead for this project, we looked at what the cost would be," said Wynn. "Because the Passport 1000 P1 is a self-contained solution with less hardware required – everything needed is right in the lock, and a single PoE cable handles power and data – it's cost effective in terms of both material outlay and labor incurred. Running conventional wiring down a door frame can be a nightmare, and with battery-powered locks you have to have a regular maintenance schedule, so PoE just made the most sense for us in our situation." He added, "Our IT people love it because it's a PoE lock, so it links directly to their already-in-place switches and IT network."

Wynn and his crew installed 28 Passport 1000 P1 locks in the entryway doors in the two dining halls and in other areas, such as the utility closets and IT rooms. "The system is working exactly as we'd envisioned. I manage the security for the Eagle Card program and we handle it just as we would if someone wanted a metal key – we get a request, approve it and issue a credential, not just for students but for staff also. We can account for every single card, wherever and whenever it's used and for what purpose, by anyone on campus."

Wynn points out that the security and safety benefits of the system go far beyond access and accountability. "Every door is tied into our alarm system via IT and we can tell if a door has been propped open or compromised. More importantly, we have the ability to provide access from anywhere in the event of a campus emergency. I can unlock any door in either dining hall in seconds from my desk, whereas our public safety personnel can only be in so many places in a given time frame."

"Whenever you undertake a major construction project like this, you have concerns," Wynn admitted. "Especially knowing we had to meet the trifecta of Eagle Card, Blackboard Transact and PoE compatibility – and not knowing if there was an available system that could meet all of our needs. When we put the SARGENT Passport 1000 P1 and Persona Campus system into place, it was as if the stars had aligned."