PROJECT

Project Area
SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL

Achieved for
PAOK THESSALONIKI

Requirement
COMPLETE ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM
FOR "TOUMBA" STADIUM

CLIENT PROFILE

CLIENT:
PAOK THESSALONIKI

SECTOR:
SPORTS SOCIETY

NTERNET SITE:
www.paokfc.gr

PAOK Thessaloniki, also known as **PAOK FC**, is a sports society with its head office in Thessaloniki, Greece, where it was also founded in 1926, by Greeks who took refuge from Constantinople (Istanbul today).

The society is known especially for its football team, which plays in the major league of the Greek championship.

During the years, Paok has become the most famous football team not only in Thessaloniki but also in Northern Greece.

The team official colours are black and white, in vertical stripes. Paok has won 2 national titles (1975/76 and 1984/85) and 4 Greece Cups.

This cup was the last trophy won, in 2002/03, versus Aris Salonicco. This year the team finished the season in second place in the Greek Championship and qualified in the next Champions League edition.

CLIENT REQUIREMENTS

The Greek society's main requirement was to find the best access management system for the **Thessaloniki "Toumba" stadium**, where the team's home matches are played, in order to better supervise spectators flow and reduce as much as possible the violent scenes at the entrances gates, prevent and repress dangerous behaviours and avoid abusive entrances.

However it was necessary to have access control and ticket management solutions that could be integrated completely, in a single system.

Paok FC has decided to rely on suppliers that were capable to plan and carry out such a system, from the planning and installation stages to those of start-up and successive technical assistance.

With this purpose, Paok has chosen partners such as **TicketHour**, a Greek company specialized in solutions for online ticket management, and **Zucchetti Group** that provided a complete solution for access control at stadium entrances.

PROJECT

ACHIEVED PROJECT

The solution provided by Zucchetti has a structure of turnstiles controlled completely automatically by a hardware and software system developed and achieved in-house.

HARDWARE

The entrances of the Thessaloniki "Toumba Stadium", with a capacity of 28.000 spectators, were equipped with 30 readers for BARCODE tickets and RFID MIFARE subscription badges, which control 14 double turnstiles and 2 single ones for the VIP and press areas. These readers unblock the turnstiles (therefore granting access) once the authenticity of the access title has been verified.

For some entrances WiFi Handheld Terminals have also been used. The full height and anti-climb turnstiles are UEFA certified and guarantee a rapid spectator flow (a single passage, for a total of 800 transits per hour at any passing point).

The reading terminals are equipped with double Barcode reader for a bi-directional title reading and with RFID multistandard 13,56 MHz reader. Moreover, they have a display that indicates the total number of the persons who entered the stadium, the flows per sector and turnstile.

If necessary (for example, for public order problems) the keypad can be used for manually unblocking and deactivating the access point.

The system thus developed allows verifying the authenticity of the access title, denying access to the stadium for those who use fake tickets and allowing an efficient check of the total number of entrances. The system also registers automatic entrances and manual unblockings made by the steward; therefore the specified number is guaranteed to be the real one.

SOFTWARE

Handheld terminals as well as reading terminals are equipped with the best Zucchetti software for Access Management, configured on-line and actively monitoring passing points, in real time. This means that the access rights and white lists are directly and univocally controlled by the application and transit data is directly registered by the software.

Therefore, even if the access title is read by handheld or reading terminals, the information is centrally managed.

INTEGRATION OF TICKET SYSTEM AND ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM

The interface between the Automated Ticket System created by TicketHour and Zucchetti Access Control System was achieved through a protocol of control and action rules that guarantee an immediate answer from the system as well as complete security.
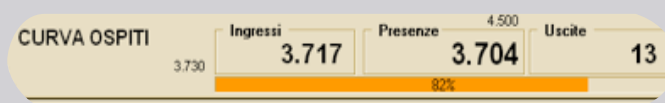
Practically the sold tickets are immediately elaborated by the system and enabled at the entrance; thus it is impossible to insert fake access titles, not processed by the ticket system.

The interface between the Ticket System and Access Control is practically established by the list of released access titles and by the total number of rules for accessing the stadium. Therefore, an interface Database is used to populate the systems' tables/fields and to acquire the status of variable data.

The purpose of using a system based on interface DB between the Automatic Ticket System and Access Control is to release both systems of the need to know the implementation and organizational details specific to the counterparty, which can thus be performed even asynchronously on systems and different environments simply accessing the interface table.

Statistical data about the actual capacity are updated in real time

Possible anomalies are highlighted on each gate with signalling explanatory icons in real time

WHY ZUCCHETTI?

Chrisostomus Gagatisis - General manager Paok FC

"The project has been accomplished and tested, perfectly respecting the schedule. Zucchetti access control system met all our requirements completely, allowing the secure and organized management of supporters flow to the stadium, consistently reducing risks for person integrity and also entrance times."

Stefanos Kakarantzas - Ticket Hour vice-president/CEO

"We are very pleased with the success obtained by our system and we personally noticed the reliability and experience of Zucchetti staff that assisted us during planning and installation.
Paok F.C. is the first team in Greece to have an on-line ticket solution, completely integrated with an access control system which allowed the sports company to increase revenue. Moreover, considering the two matches held at Paok, with the system in function, we estimated that 2000 supporters, who once could have entered the stadium abusively, now had to purchase a ticket in order to see the match."*

PROJECT