

Eyes (Almost) in the Sky

By [Construction Staff](#) September 6, 2021



It seems like cameras have been monitoring construction jobsites since film was on a roll and had to be developed. There are photos of construction being done on 1920s buildings, such as the Empire State Building, but those were done by adventurous and brave photographers who climbed the steel alongside the ironworkers, all to “get the shot.”

Twenty-five years ago, the digital age came to monitoring when [Earthcam](#) installed the first webcam in Times Square, New York. Since then, EarthCam has been developing technology that has made live cameras integral to every-day life. In the last year, EarthCam has launched new locations such as the Grand Canyon and added the latest robotic 4k camera technology to New York’s Times Square and the Statue of Liberty.

EarthCam has also documented and monitored some of the construction industry’s most significant projects. Time-lapse movies released in the past 12 months include the NFL’s largest stadium, SoFi Stadium, the home of the LA Rams and (formerly San Diego) Chargers. EarthCam’s 4k time-lapse video took over 1400 days and four million images to document the construction of the first football stadium to be built within Los Angeles in nearly 100 years.

The original EarthCam’s images were 1/12th of a megapixel. Today, panoramas are captured at 120,000 megapixels. Last year the company introduced the highest resolution outdoor webcam and the world’s first multi-network 5G camera system. New full-frame webcams increase resolution by 154% over previous versions, realizing more artistic and commercial possibilities for entertainment, construction, and security applications.

EarthCam’s patented GigapixelCam technology has been field proven in the most demanding environments, and now the technology behind it is available in the mid-priced ultra-wide angle [61 MegapixelCam](#), and the [61 MegapixelCam Robotic](#), which adds a precision 360° pan/tilt base. Both cameras provide live video streaming for real-time progress monitoring and feature exceptional resolution to provide a new level of detail for cost-effective time-lapse marketing.

Earlier this year, over 50 features and upgrades were introduced for clients using EarthCam’s services, including new efficiencies for the 360° VR Site Tour to merge architectural plans with webcam, drone, and immersive videography. Additional enhancements for management platforms such as Autodesk and Procore were also integrated throughout a SaaS platform.

As reliance on solar-powered cameras increases, Solar Power AI is becoming necessary to ensure maximum uptime. EarthCam’s new solar analytics provide valuable insights into solar performance from the moment of installation through the life of the system. Clients can verify optimal panel positioning and expected solar charging values are plotted based on current and future weather data. Smart alerts provide recommended actions to ensure every system stays online and in peak working condition even throughout challenging winter months.

Even throughout the pandemic, EarthCam continued to grow and thrive, adding 50 million YouTube views in one year—subscribers almost doubled and viewership on broadcast TV increased by 303%. To celebrate its 25th year, EarthCam is releasing a [compilation movie](#) of some of the most pivotal imagery from the company’s history, from construction time-lapse to live messages from the crew of the International Space Station.