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InGEAR

WLS Wields Powerful ENG Tool With Dejero

By Harry A. Jessell, TVNewsCheck

Chicago-based ABC has just made a large investment in bonded cellular technology that lets crews send live video back to the station over public wireless broadband networks.

The investment was made with Dejero Labs of Waterloo, Ontario, which is supplying nine portable transmitters the size of a small suitcase (480 x 357 x 196mm weighing 10Kg without batteries) along with access to an online system manager and in-station receivers, which capture the incoming video and convert it to genlocked SDI video ready for ingest into the station's workflow.

To go live, the crew plugs a camera to the suitcase and pushes a button. "The crews want to get the story back as quickly as possible and this becomes a nice little tool – another tool in the toolbox to help bring the story back to the station,"

says WLS Director of Engineering Kal Hassan.

As an ABC owned and operated in the nation's third largest TV market, WLS Chicago is not lacking for microwave and satellite trucks to provide live feeds for its newscasts. In fact, it has 10 of them. However, sometimes even that is not enough says Hassan, who says the station will put as many as 16 ENG crews on the street at one time. And sometimes, he says, microwave and satellite just can't do that job.

That's why WLS has just made a large investment in bonded cellular technology that will allow crews to send live video back to the station over public wireless broadband networks. As its name suggests, bonded cellular technology works by strapping together several wireless air cards so that the transmitter can search



IDX Dejero transmitter-in-a-suitcase offers bonded cellular ENG

out and aggregate the necessary bandwidth from among multiple 4G and 3G carriers. According to Hassan, it takes at least 1.5 megabits per second of bandwidth to get a "decent" SD live shot and 2-3 megabits for an HD picture.

Several companies are offering products, but Dejero claims to have found a better way of juggling the bandwidth and carriers to improve reliability and picture quality. In

addition to the cell network, the system also has Wi-Fi and Ethernet links. Dejero also offers what may be a unique service. It acts as a bandwidth middleman, negotiating rates with the carriers so clients like WLS don't have to. The client simply pays a flat monthly fee to Dejero.

Dejero are distributed throughout the EMEA by IDX Technology Europe.

G&D Assigned To Equip BSKyB's Harlequin One

German manufacturer Guntermann & Drunck GmbH has equipped BSKyB's new broadcast facility Harlequin One in West London with KVM extension and switching solutions. The contract included KVM installations for several hundred servers and desktop computers. G&D's British partner, Omnio Technologies, supervised the project.

Sustainable Broadcast Centre

The new building is noted for its sustainability and the working environment. The building allows access to natural daylight and fresh air, views outdoors and across floors. The aim was to separate people from distracting and emission-intensive computer hardware. By implementing the benefits of KVM hardware, the multi-platform content production studios are heat and noise-free as computers are stored in access protected data rooms. G&D KVM solutions provide for seamless computer interoperability and efficient workflow.

Environmental Footprint

Reducing the environmental

footprint was one important topic at BSKyB's Harlequin studio. "The need for efficient, reliable technology to reduce the overall energy consumption of BSKyB's technical facilities made us plan with G&D's hardware," said Paul Norton, Managing Director, Omnio Technologies. "The ease of use of their products, the fact that they are extremely reliable, intuitive and backed by the best technical and after sales support Omnio had experienced gave us no hesitation in recommending that BSKyB implement G&D solutions as the KVM infrastructure within Harlequin One, confidence in our partners is crucial and that's why we trust in G&D."

Solutions For Interaction

As broadcast moves to tapeless workflows, every bay needs to access a high number of computers and data to have content available on the desktop. For that reason Omnio chose G&D's CATCenter NEO line, a KVM matrix switch system. It makes a wide range of computers available at each work bay. The CATCenter NEO KVM system also allows easy computer access for the engineers



Guntermann & Drunck CATCenter NEO range

in the equipment rooms where computers are stored without disturbing the creative people at work. By implementing UCON-IP-NEO products the staff became able to access computers remotely over IP – even from home – more easily.

For a one-to-one extension of a computer to let's say the studio they chose DVIVision and DL-Vision KVM extenders. Whenever more computers are in use DVIMUX switches for both DVI and

VGA video and miniMUX switches for just VGA video allow the use of multiple computers from one console at the same spot.

As BSKyB continue to innovate, the solutions they chose need to be robust and well engineered. G&D and Omnio Technologies said that quality and service remain key issues for mission-critical environments such as the one at BSKyB and looks forward to meeting the current and future needs of the company.