

We designed, developed and installed a complete solution for BCTV which satisfies all aspects of their required operation, including shared media storage for all users and program teams, ingest and playout ports for news and transmission operations, newsroom computer system (NRCS) scripting and rundown handling, automation for news playout, video and audio handling for the production studio, file processing and upload handling for delivery to Comux (the operators of the digital transmission infrastructure for the LTV licence holders) and hardware down-conversion for the station's ultimate SD output.

We acted as the single supplier for all of the video and network infrastructure involved in the project, including PC server and workstation hardware, network switches and hubs, video routing, teleprompter hardware, ingest VTR, off-air receiver and monitoring. This meant that we could build and test much of the system before delivery – in fact the majority of the system is housed in just a single 18U wheeled rack, which was prepared in advance off-site and simply rolled into position. This approach ensured that a reliable solution could be installed extremely quickly.

BCTV are now using almost elements across our entire product range – QNews (NRCS), aVS (Video Server storage and ingest/playout), aPS (Production Suite for studio production) and FMC (Flexible Media Controller). The FMC, which provides a flexible, common remote user interface for all aspects of the system, is a particularly vital part of their operation now as it allows different users to take control of different hardware components from any workstation connected to their network – even remotely. This allows, for instance, the News Director to be controlling two server ports for playout and record functions from the news gallery and the Programme Scheduler to be controlling a third port for ingest from a VTR from the production office, whilst both have simultaneous control over the router in order to allocate their respective sources appropriately. This flexible approach, with centralised hardware but distributed control and monitoring, has ensured that the overall system can be easily adapted as the requirements upon it evolve.

As with previous LTV projects, we have been able to develop existing integration in order to improve overall workflow. The requirement to use a TriCaster for the news



output, for instance, led us to extend our news automation control such that now when the operator presses 'Take' on the TriCaster surface, the next video clip cued from the news running order is played automatically, and when that clip completes the automation automatically triggers a 'Take' back to the studio. Our news automation had already enabled video clips to be prepared and maintained in the correct order based the news rundown, and the new TriCaster integration has improved operation in the news gallery even further.

BCTV's Channel Director Chris Perry has been delighted with how the project has progressed: "aQ has been involved with launching several local TV stations and they were an obvious first choice to design and build our infrastructure. The training and on-site support has been tremendous. It's no exaggeration to say that they are key technology partners of Kaleidoscope TV Ltd moving forward as we build and equip more studios."

Despite the incredibly short timescale and the incredibly high requirement for local production, BCTV launched successfully within the licence criteria. The project has proved that careful choice of established technology and experienced partners can result in the quick and smooth launch of a brand new channel within just a few months.

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