Company background

Launched this year it standardized its newsgathering and live broadcast operations on a range of Sony production equipment including XDCAM HD camcorders, studio cameras, vision switchers and the Optical Disc Archive for digital storage.

Sony has supplied live production equipment and cameras to equip three studios and three control rooms in the capitals of all three countries, as well as XDCAM HD422 camcorders for electronic newsgathering. The in-house file format is MXF XDCAM 50Mb/s 422.

N1’s requirements

A core part of the N1 operation is a future-proofed and scalable archive solution which will integrate into daily content production.

“We are trying to achieve with the news channel something different to other TV news competitors in the region by innovating with new technology,” says Jovic. “When it comes to archive, our thinking was that the most important thing was to have a good and reliable archive both now and in the future.

“We examined the use of digital tape storage, but selected Optical Disc Archive because we are 100 per cent sure that we can retrieve media at any time in the future.”

Igor Jovic, Chief Technical Director, N1
The Sony solution

N1 invested in a Sony Optical Disc Archive solution, comprising the Optical Disc PetaSite ODS-L3OM library, managed by middleware from XenData. The PetaSite library provides a current 136TB capacity, scalable to over 800TB, with the Optical Disc Archive media offering a 50-year archive lifetime.

The Sony Optical Disc Archive system is ideal for deep archive where data tape does not provide the assurance or meet the need for very long-term archive requirements. It is ideally suited for providing a second copy broadcast archive solution at a remote site and is ideal for business continuity/disaster recovery, post house and production back-up and for video, film and stock footage archives or AV national archives. The system can also be used for news and sports clips that need to be near-online and as an online browse and proxy clip store.

As the total archive solutions supplier, Sony delivered and implemented the system through local reseller and partner, ProVideo.

Why Sony was selected

“With Optical Disc Archive it doesn’t matter if technology advances - which it inevitably will - since we are future-proofed with storage going forward,” explains Jovic. “As and when the next generation of drives are released we know that the Sony Optical Disc Archive strategy will work.

Essentially we wanted to invest in a system at the outset so that we don’t have to think about migrating our media to another system, or another version of a system, in five, ten or twenty years time.”

Platform confidence was not the only reason behind N1’s technology choice. “Speed of access was vital,” Jovic says. “Our production teams are revisiting older news recordings from the deep archive for a lot of material to supplement bulletins on a daily basis. Restoring material from the PetaSite Optical Disc Archive is not only reliable but it is fast, especially for the small size video files which we tend to produce. Each Optical Disc Archive disc can carry thousands of small files as well as full programmes, but the ability of production teams to search, access and retrieve particular content from the Optical Disc Archive efficiently was very important. It means that we can incorporate the archive as a living part of daily production and maximize it as a resource.”

Sony Professional Solutions Europe provided the professional services for full system design, project management for the implementation of the XenData application and delivered the complete archive solution to meet N1’s required on-air date.

The benefits to N1

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About Sony Professional

Sony Professional, a division of Sony Europe, is the leading supplier of AV/IT solutions to businesses across a wide variety of sectors including Media and Broadcast, Video Security and Retail, Transport & Large Venue markets. It delivers products, systems and applications to enable the creation, manipulation and distribution of digital audio-visual content that add value to businesses and their customers. With over 25 years’ experience in delivering innovative market-leading products, Sony Professional is ideally placed to deliver exceptional quality and value to its customers.

Sony’s Professional Services division, its systems integration arm, offers its customers access to the expertise and local knowledge of skilled professionals across Europe. Collaborating with a network of established technology partners, Sony delivers end to end solutions that address the customer’s needs, integrating software and systems to achieve each organisation’s individual business goals.

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