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ATG DANMON UK

Sky Studios, Osterley: A high-efficiency tapeless production and editing facility

Presentation set in Sky Sports News studio

ATG Danmon is one of the world's most successful providers of high-end reliable and easy-to-operate integrated systems for broadcasters and programme makers.

Active in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, ATG Danmon is part of the Dan Technologies Group which operates from offices in the United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.



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BSkyB chose ATG Danmon to install, test and commission the studios and post-production facilities for BSkyB's new broadcasting facility at the network's corporate headquarters in Osterley, west London.

Sky commenced the transfer of operations to its new £233 million media centre, Sky Studios, with the relocation of Sky Sports News. This was followed by a six-month relocation of other departments. The building, which can house 1,300 personnel, incorporates eight programme production studios, 45 edit suites, archiving and playout.

An essential requirement was the ability to handle high-definition and 3D throughout the system.

The contract was grouped into three main technical elements and ATG Danmon was

active on two of these: a five-studio production centre plus a large post-production resource comprising 23 general purpose video edit suites, 11 fast turnaround edit suites, five playout edit suites, six Sky Sports News edit suites and six desktop post-production craft stations. Offline editing is performed mainly on Avid equipment, some suites also having access to EVS slow-motion systems.

The production studios are equipped with Grass Valley LDK cameras and Kayak vision mixers.

ATG Danmon was also commissioned to provide an eight-position Content Handling area, two Graphics Preparation areas, a New Media Production area and an International Commentary area. Auxiliary premises adjacent to ATG's Letchworth headquarters were

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Sky Studios building



acquired to accommodate equipment arriving for pre-installation testing. The ATG Danmon team supervising the installation included Deputy Project Manager Scott Adams, plus engineers Jon Brewer and Kelvin Neath.

Tapeless file-based technology is used throughout the facility, including news and sports shooting on Panasonic P2 solid-state memory cards which allow faster-than-real-time ingest. Low and high resolution copies of incoming content are made simultaneously during ingest, the former for logging and editing, the latter for actual transmission.

With an average of 4,500 tape movements each day, the move to an file-based operating environment within the new building offered many advantages in terms of improved efficiency and archive accessibility. Data sources in AVC-Intra and IMX 50 formats is stored on online servers backed up a LTO-5 data tapes archive.

The systems installed by ATG Danmon meet the highest standards of 1080i studio operation and file-based post-production.

The completed building provides office space and accommodates more than 400 data servers. Energy-conservation is a central feature of the structure, including a combined cooling, heating and power plant. Highly energy-efficient LED lighting is used wherever possible. This delivers the further advantage of operating at low thermal temperature so making less demand on the building's cooling system than traditional studio lights. Similarly efficient LCD flatscreen monitor displays allow the majority of production and playout staff to operate in naturally illuminated rooms rather than in darkened rooms with localised electric lighting.

All areas of the building are designed to permit natural ventilation. Post-production and technical areas are centrally located with a high degree of access to natural daylight and fresh air, as well as views outdoors and across floors. The building even has its own dedicated wind vane, contributing to an A Star rating for overall energy efficiency.

The Studio Studios facility is an impressive addition to the London skyline and proof of BSkyB's commitment to efficiency.



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