

# ESPN Star Sports completes first phase of facility upgrade

Sports channel ESPN Star Sports has overhauled its transmission and master control facility in the first phase of a facility makeover. According to the station, the expansion project came after many years of deliberation and detailed planning. The project began in February 2004.

The upgrade allows ESPN STAR Sports to run in an environment with far more comprehensive automation control. Its transmission suites were previously manual and automation was used solely for server control.

Andy Rylance, director of engineering added, "The 'live' nature of our channels did not support an automated environment. But as these systems developed, we saw it as a great opportunity to streamline our operations."

ESPN STAR Sports runs about 35 per cent of its programmes "live" with the other 65 per cent being repeats of matches and games. The upgrade involved a rebuild that covered the transmission area (TX), TX supervisor area, master control room, and engineering workshop.

Television System Limited (TSL) was the system integrator.

Reconstruction of the transmission suites started last July with TSL building and testing the entire system in the UK before it was shipped to Singapore.



The heart of the facility revolves around a multi-channel desk that gives ESPN STAR Sports the technical capability to monitor and control any number of channels. Each of the network's 12 channels has its own master control and channel-branding graphics generator. This allows the broadcaster to customise channels for specific markets to specific sponsorship requirements.

The next phase begins July 2006 when the facility will install a server-based production system, enabling the broadcaster to move towards a tapeless environment.



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