



## Briefs

**BBC demo DVB-T2 chain**

BBC Kingswood Warren engineers have successfully demonstrated a working demodulator capable of receiving HD signals transmitted using the DVB-T2 standard. It is the first time anywhere in the world that a live end-to-end DVB-T2 chain has been demonstrated. The DVB-T2 standard will be used to allow HD channels to be shoehorned onto Freeview.

**New Avid system a success**

Avid has had early success with the launch of version 10 of its DS editing and finishing system. Reseller Root6 has made sales to The Farm and Platform Post while Beta tester HD Heaven in Birmingham has also upgraded to the new version. The new incarnation of DS, which officially launched two weeks ago, uses the power of the host computer rather than a dedicated hardware box and features Symphony style colour correction.

**Editec picks up SprintCam**

Editec has picked up the UK distribution rights to the SprintCam Live V2 Ultra Motion Camera System. Created in partnership with Fujinon and Photron, the SprintCam Live V2 (above) provides extreme slow-motion pictures for sports broadcast, offering up to 10,000 frames per second. Made by I-Movix in Belgium, the camera was the official extreme slow motion technology for the Beijing Olympics.

**ITN invests in Carbon Coder**

ITN has invested in media transcoding technology from Harmonic. The Rhozet Carbon Coder will be used to transfer media that can be packaged for the mobile, broadband and IPTV services it provides to the likes of Vodafone and MSN. Deployed in a multi-node "farm" configuration and working in conjunction with ITN's in-house NeMeSys content management system, the Carbon Coder allows ITN to deliver nearly 1,000 video clips a day.

# TSL to build C4 playout facility

By Will Strauss

Red Bee Media has handed broadcast systems integrator TSL the multimillion pound contract to build a new playout facility for Channel 4.

The Maidenhead-based company won a competitive tender to design, integrate and deliver a dedicated file-based operation which will provide media management and play out 43 separate channels and services, including C4, More 4, Film 4 and all the +1 channels.

The entire C4 channel operations department – including library, quality control and transcoding – will relocate to the new facility at Red Bee's Broadcast Centre in White City. Post-production and graphics will remain at Horseferry Road under the management of Red Bee Media.

It is predicted that the new operation will deliver significant improvements in the efficiency of Channel 4's operations. The facility will not be fully operational until next summer, but the initial deadline for the handover of the technology is February 2009.

TSL chief executive David Phillips believes his company's size and ability to work quickly helped to win the contract.

"There are very few systems integrators that would have the capacity in terms of skillset, number of people and build space to allow this to be done in a very tight timescale," he told *Broadcast*. "This is something that we majored on in our proposal."

Red Bee Media senior development manager David Popper said TSL had demonstrated, "an excellent understanding" of key technology challenges and that



Red Bee Broadcast Centre: where C4 is relocating its ops department

it presented, "innovative cost-effective solutions to resolve them".

The new resource will be pre-built and tested in Maidenhead before it is installed at Red Bee. It will consist of a range of technologies including four Omneon Spectrum media servers; Morpheus automation and Cygnus routing from Pro-Bel; a Snell and Wilcox Quasar Ph.C for up-conversion; and Axon Digital Design modular infrastructure equipment.

The entire facility will operate in high definition, with any standard definition services being subject to down-conversion.

The project has been broken down into eight components to make it more manageable. Each part will have its own deadline and TSL will receive payment on delivery of each component.

"On a project that is so technically complex it's very important

to have clear boundaries that everyone can work towards," Phillips said. "This gives us clear deliverables so the customer understands what he's getting and when. From the commercial side there are clear milestones that customers can sign off. They need to see that a certain aspect has been done before they release the finances for it."

TSL is currently completing the design of the system. Orders have been placed with manufacturers and kit should arrive either later this month or in October. Once the technology has been installed, staff orientation and training will be required. The migration of channels will begin on a gradual basis with the full system operational by summer 2009.

 For more on the technology at the new facility go to [www.broadcasnow.co.uk/technology](http://www.broadcasnow.co.uk/technology)

## MTV spends £2m on master control room upgrade

MTV has spent £2m upgrading the infrastructure of the master control room (MCR) at its transmission and media centre in Camden, writes WILL STRAUSS.

The new HD resource, which also houses MTV's studios, will enable the music channel broadcaster to operate more than 50 channels and handle multiple incoming circuits via satellite or fibre from a single centralised control centre.

The design and build was completed in-house by MTV's systems engineering team. The whole project took 36 months to complete.

Technology project manager Rob Cranfield said that the new facility will help MTV and its external broadcaster customers stand out in a crowded market.

"With the number of channels rapidly growing, it is becoming more difficult for broadcasters to differentiate themselves and retain viewers for a period of time," he said. "The new MCR facility allows us to not only ensure maximum efficiency, but also to better monitor the quality and production of MTV's programming."

The refurbished control room includes a Pro-Bel Sirius router, MVP multi-image display processor technology from Evertz, a new monitor wall featuring three Christie rear projection cubes, a Tektronix video analysis system and Telex talk-back.

The infrastructure of the control room has been rebuilt, moving all incoming and outgoing lines to and from BT and Arqiva onto better systems for more diversity.

MTV will launch MTV HD around Europe from next week and in the UK by the end of the year.

### Technology Focus

#### CODEX DIGITAL LAB – A FILM LAB IN A BOX

##### What is it?

A new conversion tool that quickly turns digital images into a full set of production deliverables.

##### Who is it for?

Digital Lab can be housed in the master control room of an editing or studio facility, or directly connected on set. It can be used for a range of different broadcast productions – including multi-camera episodic TV, drama or light entertainment – and digital motion pictures.

##### How does it work?

By ingesting production mate-

rial from Codex recorders, tape, telecine and other digital systems. It then converts the material – regardless of whether it's SD, HD or 4K – into a variety of different outputs in speeds faster than real time. Deliverables include editing files for Avid, Apple or Adobe, output for archive tapes and viewing files for Quicktime or DVD. Full metadata, colour-space conversion and look management can be added.

##### How do I find out more?

Visit Codex Digital at IBC Stand 11.B58, or go to [www.codexdigital.com](http://www.codexdigital.com)

