



News letter

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BOB Logging



EVS Media Server

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Beijing 2008 Report

Besides Beijing representing the first fully HD and tapeless production of its size, the 2008 edition of the Games has definitely beaten all records when it comes to sports broadcast production. With no less than 60 OB trucks, 1,000 HD cameras, 90,000 square meters at the IBC, and 3,600 hours of HD programming covering the 17-day event, the 2008 Summer Olympic Games was the most ambitious undertaking in the history of broadcasting.

Since its involvement in the production of the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996, EVS has increased its contribution to the production of the Olympics exponentially, and is this year involved in all facets of the broadcast production.

"In spite of our strong developments in the entertainment and news markets, live sports production remains a key business for EVS," said Pierre L'Hoest, CEO of EVS. "For this reason, EVS has played a key role in the management of the tapeless production workflow of these Games."

EVS evolved from providing live slow-motion systems in OB trucks to developing integrated solutions, making a range of new live and near-live production capabilities possible for the host broadcaster, BOB (Beijing Olympics Broadcasting), as well as for the large number of international broadcasters involved in the Summer Games.

The Beijing Olympics Broadcast (BOB), which was in charge of the host broadcast for the Games, appointed EVS to provide live and near-live production equipment and technological solutions, which acted as key solutions at different levels of the production:



24 hours Olympic News Production

Outside Broadcast (OB) production at the different venues

As in Athens, EVS' renowned XT[2] production servers and their related software applications were used in all OB trucks for managing all live replays, instant highlights, and famous live slow motion replays, all massively utilized throughout the live programming to offer the best of the competitions to the viewers. In total, 60 OB trucks were equipped with EVS XT[2] servers configured to record hours of HD content from multiple camera angles in loop mode, and playback instantly to the PGM.

With an estimated 700 XT[2] production servers and related software applications IPDirector, MulticamLSM and CleanEdit deployed worldwide for the production of the Summer Games, EVS confirms its ability to adapt to new sports broadcast market requirements for fast turnaround and multiple production based on a reliable technology.

Pierre L'Hoest
CEO

Central Media Server

EVS provided BOB with the first ever fully-HD central media server installed in the IBC. This media server was comprised of a cluster of HD XT[2] servers associated to a series of network and software control solutions developed by EVS, and was built to allow the recording of up to 40 live HD feeds and 2 additional ENG feeds, originating from the different venues. All the content recorded on the media server was logged with associated metadata on 42 IPDirector logging stations provided by EVS. Thanks to these logs, all media can be easily and instantly retrieved on the media server, for further selection and transfer to local production and post production facilities. In total, about 2 millions logs could be created and stored on the central database. Standard English keyword grids were initially established by BOB and added to recorded feeds by a team of Chinese students trained by EVS. In addition, in order to facilitate the browsing actions on the media server, all recorded media were simultaneously recorded in proxy format, offering smoother browsing and review operations while preserving the workflow bandwidth.

Rights Holder Broadcasters were offered different options to access logging information and or audio/video clips available on the central media server for their local production and post production requirements.

Host Broadcaster Multilateral Programs Production

The multilateral programs managed by BOB included the production of Games Summaries, the Daily Summaries, and as a new feature, a 24-Hour Olympics News package. These three multilateral programs were largely based on multiple and integrated EVS live and near-live production systems, including IPDirector for browsing, media transfer and playout control, and CleanEdit editing stations, for fast turnaround editing operations.

Rights Holder Broadcasters (RHB) production facilities

EVS was also heavily involved in providing the equipment of many tapeless production workflows of broadcasters covering the Games from their IBC studios in Beijing or from their main production base. Among them were BBC, NBC, CBC, EBU, Televisa, France Televisions, CCTV, NHK, RTR Sports, Channel 7, TVNZ, MBC, Channel 13, TVE, TVB, RAI, YLE, and many more. The live and near-live production workflows provided varied depending on the specific requirements of the different broadcasters, and generally included multi-feed recording, instant previews, metadata management (logging and browsing), live editing, transfer to post production stations (e.g. Avid, Final Cut Pro), and playout control applications.

I would give it an 8 or a 9, specifically in light of doing full HD in all areas, surround sound, and what is to date the largest video server in the industry.

Manolo Romero, CEO of the BOB

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Congratulations. The EVS-system worked smoothly, and every editor was satisfied. We were also delighted by a system that fulfilled our expectations that fulfilled our expectations, and every editor was satisfied with the CleanEdit editing stations used for the preparation of all highlight packages during the Games.

Jakob and Svein Morten, Summary Coordinators EBU



CCTV Headquarters Beijing

CCTV



CCTV Studio Beijing

China Central Television (CCTV), the sole provider of Olympics coverage to China during this year's Summer Games in Beijing, used EVS' XT[2] server and related software and hardware to manage the live and near-live production of the Games in HD. In total, 14 HD XT[2] servers, 10 IPDirectors, and seven XF[2] digital archive stations were used in the studio and in OB Vans for ingest, highlights, fast turnaround edits, replays, delays, graphics and video inserts, and background on CCTV's various stations across China. CCTV has been using the EVS XT[2] production server and related software for field production in its OB Vans for several years already, but this year's Olympic Games marked the first time the company used EVS equipment in a studio setting as well as in the field. The EVS system recorded 3,200 hours of media in loop recording mode, broken up into 27,000 total minutes of backup playout, 3,400 minutes of highlights and replays, and 4,400 minutes of ads, background, delay, turnaround, and insert footage to CCTV1, CCTV2, CCTV5, and CCTVHD.

Latest Product Upgrades

■ Multicam 9 - New Product Features

New XT[2] features: two Thomson LDK 8000 SportCam/ SportElite HD 2xSLSM cameras support configuration capabilities

With the release of its the latest software suite, Multicam 9.00, in June, the XT[2] production server now offers the ability to ingest two Thomson LDK 8000 SportCam HD SLSM 2x cameras simultaneously. Thomson recently introduced the LDK 8000 SportCam/SportElite, a two-speed Super Motion HD camera with 1080i and 720p recording capabilities, as part of an ongoing effort to keep up with broadcasters' needs for HD equipment at live events. Two of these cameras can now be supported simultaneously by the XT[2] production server, which acts as the main platform for ingest, review, and replay of video.

XNet[2] Dual Media Sharing Network

New XNet[2] dual SDTI and Gigabit media sharing network. A new hybrid network system offering the perfect combination of reliability and speed for media exchange in any live and near-live production workflow. With its unique media transfer (native and non-native formats) and streaming capabilities to craft editors such as Avid Media Composer® and Apple FCP®, new XNet[2] Gigabit brings post production even closer to live.

■ IPEdit: New Module part of IPDirector version 5



New IPEdit Timeline Editor part of IPDirector V.5

The new generation of IPDirector offers a 360° production management concept that adapts easily to any specifications of your production workflow requirements. IPEdit, part of the new IPDirector suite, is the first.

IPEdit is a video editing solution fully integrated in the IPDirector framework that delivers real-time performance through a new server-based architecture. It offers complete timeline editing with no rendering process required.

IPEdit key capabilities:

- Timeline Editing
- Quick Program Fixing
- Highlights Creation
- Fast Editing Functions
- Up to 4 Audio Group Tracks
- 2 Simultaneous Timelines per XT[2]
- Play While Editing
- Multi Channel Access
- Graphics and Voiceover Import
- Video and Audio Transition Effects
- External Device Automation

New Deals

■ CTV UK



CTV Outside Broadcast, one of the largest and most well-respected independent OB companies in Europe, has opted for a completely tapeless HD workflow, equipped through a collaboration between GearBox and EVS.

CTV OB needed a solution that would encompass tapeless field editing and archiving, and that would be compatible with Apple Final Cut Pro. GearBox came through with EVS' XT[2] server for ingest and playout, along with the IPDirector suite for logging and associating metadata to clips, and the XF[2] for portable archiving and transfer capabilities.

Because the XT[2] natively supports the Apple ProRes422 HD codec, all clips recorded on the XT[2] are immediately available to the Final Cut Pro stations for editing.

■ Presteigne Charter

EVS has equipped Presteigne Charter with XT[2] servers, Multicam LSM, Spotbox, XStore[2], CleanEdit and IPDirector applications, as well as XNet[2] networking functionalities, primarily for use in the Summer Olympic Games.

Presteigne Charter, which is a top provider of solutions for global television companies, has a long-standing partnership with EVS. The equipment provided in this sale and in associated rentals will allow Presteigne to supply various companies with the tools they need for broadcasting live sporting events this summer and in the future.

■ EPTV, Algeria's public national broadcaster

EPTV, Algeria's public national broadcaster, is taking the HD lead in Northern Africa with the purchase of 5 HD OB vans by Sony. Of those 5 HD OBs, three will be 12-cams and 2 will be 6-cams, with all cameras recording onto a total of 13 EVS XT[2] servers. The EVS systems will be used for live replays, slow motion replays, on-the-fly editing and highlight packages of sport and live events in North Africa.

■ Fabelaktiv

Fabelaktiv, one of Norway's biggest production companies that produces daily lottery programs for Norsk Tipping (Norwegian National Lottery), documentaries, and children's programs for NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting) among others, has invest in EVS technology as they move into a fully tapeless production set-up.

Fabelaktiv decided on a tapeless solution consisting of EVS' HD-ready 6CH XT[2] production & playout server, IPDirector production suite, and XStore[2] media storage unit. Fabelaktiv has already been using Avid technology for craft editing, so using EVS technology for their impending move to tapeless made perfect sense, especially given the recent news regarding EVS' native support of Avid's DNxHD® codec. EVS' equipment and software will be easily integrated with Fabelaktiv's existing Avid Interplay system.

New Media & Technologies : XT2web



New web interface for search, browsing and playlist creation

XT2web is a new combined web and broadcast solution that offers fast, easy, and intuitive access to clips and associated metadata combined with a series of production and rough cut editing functionalities.

Based on the XT[2] production server's open architecture, EVS has developed a new concept of decentralized production, offering broadcasters unprecedented clip browsing and access capabilities originated from a live OB production environment. Clips generated on the OB XT[2] platforms are instantly transferred and transcoded in to res copies.

A brand new EVS web browser application offers web browsing on any local station connected to the web. Clips can be researched based on metadata such as date, timecode, or keywords (in specific cases).

The user is also able to retrieve all related and available camera angles via a thumbnail display interface for quick review.

A specific solution can be provided on project-based requirements and can be adapted to any specific workflow demands.

XT2web main applications :

- Clip review
- Advanced search based on metadata
- New media package delivery
- Production package (News, promotions, etc.)
- Playlist and packages creation
- Remote clip contribution

New Deals

Canal 13



IBC Beijing 08

Canal 13 selected the EVS HD XT[2] production server and related content production solution, IPDirector, for its Beijing studio production.

Canal 13, one of Chile's top television networks, trusted EVS technology for its coverage of the Beijing Olympics 2008. The HD set-up in Beijing consisted of a 6CH HD XT[2] for recording selected events, and an IPDirector to select clips during the events all day long. Files were transferred from the XT[2] immediately through EVS Access to Canal 13's XSan, which was in turn connected to three Apple Final Cut Pro non-linear editors where pieces were able to be edited instantly. Canal 13 also contracted BOB to access the EVS Media Server at the Olympics, which enabled browsing up to 40 events simultaneously, all host broadcast feeds, ENG footage, and game summaries. Using their IPDirector browsing station, the Canal 13 team could clip any sequence from any event and send these clips in high resolution to a local XT[2] provided by BOB.

Worldwide Upcoming events

HD World	New York, USA	OCT 15-16	
Broadcast India	Mumbai, India	OCT 17-19	(SHAF Broadcast Pvt. Ltd.)
Sportel Monaco	Monaco	OCT 20-23	A04
Satis	Paris, France	OCT 20-23	C63
BIRTV	Beijing, China	NOV 5-8	(New Digital Technology Holdings Ltd)
NAT Expo	Moscow, Russia	NOV 18-21	C23; C32 (Okno TV)
InterBEE	Tokyo, Japan	NOV 19-22	(Photron Limited)
Cebit - Broadcast Cable & Satellite	Istanbul, Turkey	NOV 20-23	
ERTU Exhibitions	Cairo, Egypt	DEC	
Sefor	Rabat, Marocco	DEC	

