



NEWSROOM SPOTLIGHT

FOX 23 KOKI-TV
KOKI-TULSA Tulsa, Okla.



KOKI-TV Tulsa uses Leitch nonlinear editing systems to keep its news timely and fast paced.

One year ago Clear Channel TV station KOKI-TV Tulsa, Okla. was in the middle of getting its news operations up and running. Mike DeClue, vice president of engineering for Clear Channel, is located at KOKI-TV, so there was little doubt that Clear Channel's best engineering personnel would be on site to drive the project.

"It's been a very successful news operation that puts out a first-class product," says DeClue of the station's news programming, which officially took to the air on February 3, 2002. The Fox affiliate currently broadcasts a 5:30p.m. newscast and a 9 p.m. newscast.

"The station is a very strong advocate of news and localism," he adds. It also knows how to build a news operation the right way.

The station has nine news crews that are equipped with Panasonic DVCPRO ENG cameras. News is captured in the field and then brought into the station where it is ingested into a

Leitch VR shared storage server system with Leitch NEWSFlash-II and NEWSFlash-II FX newsroom nonlinear production systems.

"We very much wanted to implement something that was conventional in that it came from a broadcast equipment manufacturer," says DeClue. "But we also wanted something less conventional than the traditional 'Go get the video, bring it back, make cuts edits and then slap a tape in the machine and play it back on the air,' approach."

Enter Leitch and its lineup. There are five NEWSFlash edit booths tied together via Fibre Channel to the Leitch servers. DeClue says the system allows the editor to ingest just the content they need, allowing them to put together a story with very high production values in a very short period of time.

"The single most convincing piece of evidence that the installation was done right was the fact that there has been zero, and I repeat, zero, complaints about the news system from the news user," says DeClue. "And honestly, that's a remarkable statement."

After a negative experience in dealing with nonlinear editing in the newsroom at a previous installation (it involved problems in getting the editing system to talk to the automation system) DeClue says he and Clear Channel's head of IT Deion Rigby retreated a bit from the bleeding edge.



John Edwards
Leitch Technology Corporation
Vice President and General Manager for Video Servers

What are some recent developments in news technology from Leitch?

At IBC, Leitch introduced VRNewsNet, a newsroom solution that consists of scheduled recording, browsing, craft editing, transmission and media management based on VRNet, Leitch's multipurpose server platform. Recent innovations include VRMediaNet, a media management tool; BrowseCutter-II, for browsing and editing video server content at the desktop and new interfaces for interoperability.

What do broadcasters expect from newsroom technology today?

Technology is expected to provide tools that allow more work to be completed in the field, faster "finishing" in the studio, and immediate transmission when required.

How has the move to video servers and digital storage impacted the newsroom?

Server technology is revolutionizing the newsroom. The ability to work with low-resolution media at the desktop reduces costs and improves productivity. Media management automates labor-intensive processes. The challenge in new technology is transitioning a workforce to new skills and processes involved in a digital newsroom.

What is Leitch doing to address its customers' interoperability needs?

Leitch is a member of the MPEG-2 Interoperability Forum which develops and promotes the Media Exchange Format, also known as MXF. MXF is in the final rounds of ratification with SMPTE and EBU. We've also demonstrated the ability to exchange MXF-compliant files with other manufacturers and we'll implement this standard as it is introduced to the industry.