

Scope of Work

- Production, integration and transmission of live and recorded program material
- Acquire and manage content derived via multiple fiber pathways
- Digital ingest of programming
- Shared near-line and archival storage of digital content
- Facility automation of program control and digital asset management
- Content creation through non-linear digital edit stations
- Audio recording of language translation
- Cameras providing ENG news crew capabilities
- Intercom system throughout facility
- IFB communication for live production elements



“The system was well thought out and well designed. I quickly realized that the Azzurro team was professional and experienced at their work.”

- Chief Engineer at RT Washington Bureau

The Challenge

- Transform a 12 year old studio into a state-of-the-art facility with the most advanced and efficient technologies for today and tomorrow’s digital workflow.
- Replace antiquated analog and first generation digital technology with a future-proof and HD ready serial digital infrastructure with embedded audio.
- Remain completely functional during entire upgrade.

The Project

RT decided to expand broadcasting from its Washington, DC Bureau Studios and selected Azzurro Systems Integration to upgrade the technical aspects of their news facility. Services included engineering, design, equipment procurement, training, and project management for two studios, two control rooms, ENG equipment for six field crews, newsroom automation, ingest and digital layout, and five Final Cut Pro edit stations. The resulting system addresses broadcast elements throughout RT’s content workflow: from storage, editing and production through distribution, and includes the transmission of live and recorded program material to RT’s home base in Moscow.



The news workflow is managed by a Dalet News Production automation solution supported by an Omneon video server with four terabytes of local storage. The Dalet solution interfaces with a sister system in Moscow to facilitate content sharing between locations.

The two new control rooms are each centered around a Grass Valley Kayak HD300 video production switcher capable of both SD and HD operation, which allows RT to continue their current SD production without upgrade concerns when they eventually transition to full HD. Six channels of Vizrt news graphics are shared by both control rooms.

Two studios, each furnished with a 103" Panasonic Plasma panel, were built to accommodate production. Studio One's display incorporates a U-Touch touch screen overlay allowing FingerWorks™ Telestrator to be used for instant access to all the tools needed for "on air" points. Studio One also has 12 modular 50" DLP displays arranged in a 4x3 video wall with a ICS VW processor. Vinten Osprey pedestals and Shotoku TG-18 robotic pan and tilt heads support each studios' cameras.

The Technology

- Ikegami ENG HD Cameras
- Shotoku Robotics
- Vinten Pedestals
- Thomson Kayak HD 300 Production Switcher
- LAWO ZirconXL Audio Mixing Console
- Vizrt Graphics
- Evertz VIP-X Multiviewer
- Dalet Automation System
- Omneon Media Server
- Thomson/Grass Valley routing switcher
- Apple Final Cut Pro
- Sony XD Camcorder



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