

Scope of Work

- Facility upgrade to two existing control rooms and Master Control.
- Build a third control room to mirror the other two.
- Build playout facilities in parallel, providing the ability to process and transmit eight independent programming paths, accounting for an eventual increase to ten services.
- Add HD-SDI layer of 256 x 256 to the router matrix to support this HD upgrade.



"Azzurro has completed a number of projects at our sister sites, and I am impressed by their technical knowledge, priority decision making, and honesty. Their Management and Engineering teams know what it takes to bring a television facility to its next evolution. I look forward to our projects completion and contracting Azzurro for future applications."

-YNN, Senior Director of Technical Operations

The Challenge

- Rebuild News, Production Control and Master Control rooms while maintaining 100% operational capability during construction.
- Work in a sequential pattern, leaving two control rooms in operation at all times while a third is under construction.

The Project

YNN Albany is part of a statewide network of Time Warner Cable 24-hour news channels, including sister channels in Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, and a flagship channel (NY1) in New York City.

Formerly known as Capital News 9, the YNN Albany facility was operating as a Standard Definition facility in need of an upgrade to High Definition. Interim steps had been taken to bring the system into the digital domain. While the previous upgrades were adequate for the needs at that time, they were no longer in step with the current demands of the broadcasting market.

The Technology

- Snell Kahuna CF+ HD production switchers
 - 40 inputs
 - 2.5 M/E
- Telemetrics Robotics
- Dalet Brio Server
- Evertz MVP Multiviewer
- Ross SMS Media Server
- Chyron LEX3 HD Graphics
- HD monitoring & diagnostics
 - Ikegami 17" rack mounted LCD
 - Harris VTM 2400 diagnostics
- Hitachi DK-Z50 HD box cameras
- Autoscript Teleprompter

They were operating with a combination of analog and digital signal formats. The video signals were predominately SD-SDI, the audio was analog.

Azzurro's mission was to create a High Definition video core structure and apply digital audio only where necessary. Primarily, the analog audio will be associated with the three eventual Production Control Rooms to minimize the need for embedders/de-embedders and audio D to A and A to D converters to interface with legacy analog equipment such as intercom and telephone hybrids. Embedded digital audio was used for the air paths in Master Control.

As a part of the project scope, Azzurro upgraded two existing Production Control Rooms to High Definition and created a brand new Control Room. To accomplish this, the Azzurro team worked in a sequential pattern leaving two control rooms in operation at all times while a third was under construction.

All studio cameras were replaced with Hitachi DK-Z50 box type HD cameras. The cameras are capable of operating at either 1080i, or 480i format. In all, fourteen were commissioned to service three Production Studios, Weather Studio, and POV. Each camera was outfitted with Telemetrics Robotics.

Another goal of the project was for YNN to consolidate all of the regional playouts across the state into the Albany Facility. This allows the centralized playout of all regions served by Time Warner Cable in New York State. To accomplish this goal, a Master Control area was built by Azzurro for the transmission of High Definition signals to the regional head ends via TWC's extensive fiber network. The room was built out for eight circuit paths, but system design and wiring will support two additional services for future upgrades.

This goal was accomplished both on time and on budget by the Azzurro Team.



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