

EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Broadcast Pix Drives WHYY-TV Control Room Ops

BY BILL WEBER
Vice President and CTO
WHYY-TV

PHILADELPHIA—WHYY-TV is part of WHYY Public Media, and the premier PBS member station in this market, the fourth largest local television market in the nation.

Last summer, we added the Dorrance H.

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Hamilton Public Media Commons to our existing technology center and office and studio space here on Independence Mall. It's an 8,000-square-foot facility for community media training, special events, and a television production facility. We also updated our legacy TV control room in our Content Production Center earlier this year, converting the former single-purpose facility into a flexible multimedia resource.

Both television control rooms are now anchored with Broadcast Pix Granite live video production systems. We were familiar with operation and capabilities of Broadcast

Pix switchers, as we had initially used their Slate video production system while we waited for delivery of an upgraded Granite.

'POD' CONCEPT IN NEW FACILITY

To leverage the capital investment in this technical space, we decided to take a unique approach in the design of our new high-definition video control room. Instead of constructing it around traditional consoles, we installed a collection of "activity pods" that can be used together during a production, or used independently for content creation when the full studio configuration is not being used. The Broadcast Pix Granite made this configuration possible due to its unique approach to file management.

The new Granite switcher is the heart of the "Visual Image" pod, which is located near the video monitor wall and serves as the technical director's station. We have a small audio mixer positioned there as well, although there's a separate fully-featured audio room with a multifunction audio

processing system if this is needed for more complicated projects. Other pods in the control room are tasked for ingest and library management, graphics, and used by producers. We're also developing a Web pod to support the creation and streaming of a second program.

Our Granite system provides us with the functionality we need for such a varied suite of applications in our expanded facility. We're delighted with the Granite's built-in Fluent-View displays, character generators, and other workflow tools. They give us plenty of bang for our buck, and also have greatly reduced our equipment costs. We've found that the Granite 5000 product is a very stable and high quality production switcher, and one which provides us with the tools that we



One of the two Granite 5000 systems installed at WHYY-TV

need for sophisticated video programs and event productions.

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For additional information, contact Broadcast Pix at 978-600-1100 or visit www.broadcastpix.com

Roland V-1600HD Simplifies Production at CPR

BY PAT MCGILLEN
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GATHERSBURG, MD.—CPR MultiMedia Solutions is a technical production and rental company located just outside our nation's capital. We handle everything from audio, video, lighting, staging, to

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video editing. We serve a wide variety of clients, with participation in such events as HBO premier screenings, presidential inauguration gala events, National Symphony Orchestra performances, government events, as well as corporate and industrial shows.

NEEDED MORE FLEXIBILITY

In order to better serve such a large cross section of clients and events, we were in the market for a video production switcher that would allow us to accommodate a variety of video inputs and had the flexibility necessary to mix these inputs down to either one or multiple screens. We were also looking for a switcher that was relatively easy to operate, as our staff and clients have varying degrees of technical ability. We went shopping for a new

switcher at a recent NAB show and got a demonstration of the Roland V-1600HD. We found that its capabilities seem to match very closely with our requirements, so making the purchase was an easy decision. Now the switcher serves as the core element for our production work.

Once we received the V-1600HD switcher, we put it through its paces in our shop, and then shipped it out the next day for a live Webcast and recording event of a poetry contest. The unit performed flawlessly and its simple layout made it easy for our operator to navigate.

Our clients usually require lots of graphics in connection with their events, and the V-1600HD switcher fits in very nicely in this area, as it has flexible graphics inputs ranging from analog RGB to DVI/HDMI. The switcher's ability to switch between an analog RGB signal and a DVI digital input is really a great convenience in our productions.

HANDLES MULTIPLE RESOLUTIONS

The next project in which we used the V-1600HD was a Motorola stockholders meeting. This event required us to have two independent outputs: one to feed a center screen, and another to feed different content to two outside screens. The V-1600HD switcher's two independent

outputs allowed us to provide the different video content that the job required. The V-1600HD's "Dual Mode" feature let us switch the video and graph-

ics content independently. We were also able to seamlessly cut between camera and graphic sources in this application, even though we were dealing with different video resolutions. This feature is another big plus for the switcher, and one which makes it a very useful tool in our live production and corporate events applications.

We just purchased a Roland MVS-12 SD multi-viewer to integrate with the V-1600HD. This is used in connection with displaying isolated video from each of our cameras.

Our experiences with the Roland V-1600HD to date have been excellent; we are very pleased with its performance. The switcher's operation is very intuitive, and so simple that a beginner can figure out everything without having to open the manual.

Pat McGillen has been the director of video services at CPR MultiMedia Solutions for the past 17 years, and has been involved in live production for 25 years. He may be contacted at pmcgillen@cpmmms.com.

For additional information, contact Roland Systems Group at 800-380-2580 or visit www.rolandsystemsgroup.com.



Roland's V-1600HD