

Next-Gen HD Production Trucks

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CHALLENGE

The demand for HDTV coverage of live television events has created a major incentive for the mobile production companies to put more multi-format production trucks on the road.

Traditionally, the mobile production market uses two distinct truck designs: those geared toward entertainment events (concerts, conventions, etc.) and those specialized for sports events. Although equipment and format requirements have differed for these two types of vehicles, new technologies are driving toward a one-design fleet, flexible enough to allow coverage of a wide variety of events by a common truck design.

Innovation in design and technology has been incorporated into the new fleet of HD production trucks owned by New Century Productions and Game Creek Video. Their adoption of HDTV has given rise to a router-centric design concept where everything from monitors to external connector panels can be addressed on the routers. The ability to save and recall settings system-wide allows Game Creek and New Century to quickly configure the production environment and minimize setup time.

RESOLUTION

Both Game Creek and New Century chose Diversified Systems to assist in engineering and integrating their trucks. The trucks were built at Diversified Systems' west coast Santa Clara, CA integration facility. Diversified's design and integration teams have arguably more experience in the mobile production market than any other firm in the U.S. Utilizing an experienced leader in this field delivered very high quality vehicles on a short timeline and kept their own engineering staffs focused toward ongoing operations and existing business.

DESIGN TEAM

Duane Yoslov
V.P. Operations

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Implementation

EQUIPMENT LISTS

GAME CREEK VIDEO TRUCKS: PATRIOT AND YANKEE CLIPPER

PESA 128 x 128 HD router
256 x 256 SD composite router
N-Vision 144 x 144 AES audio router
Thomson Grass Valley Kalypso 4 M/E HD switcher
Calrec Alpha 100 audio console
Sony High Definition cameras
Canon lenses

NEW CENTURY PRODUCTION TRUCKS: NCP IV, NCP VII

Utah 128 x 128 HD router
256 x 384 SD composite router
208 x 176 AES audio router
256 x 256 analog audio router
Thomson Grass Valley Kalypso 4 M/E HD switcher
Yamaha PM1D audio console (NCP IV)
Calrec Alpha 100 audio console (NCP VII)
Ikegami High Definition cameras
Canon lenses

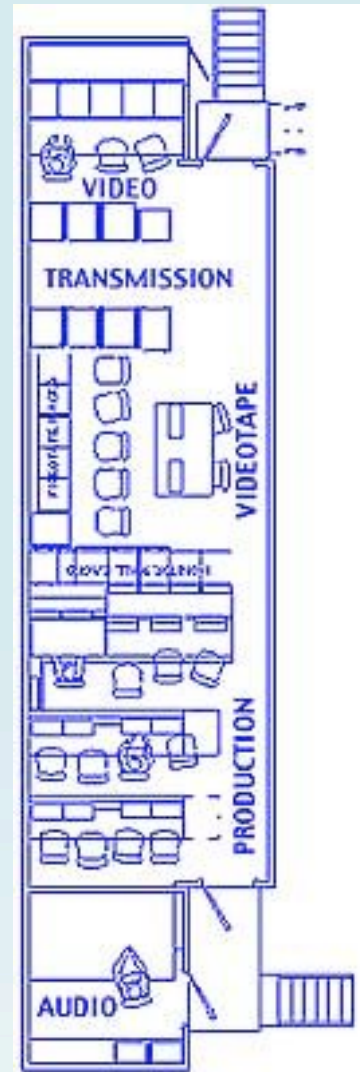


New Century required two production units to be commissioned. NCP VII was designed to handle the largest shows in television, while NCP IV, similar in design to its first HD truck, NCP V, was built for weekly network sports productions. ESPN, CBS, and FOX are the primary clients for these mobile units. Two new trucks built for Game Creek are identical, although the requirements for their intended network destinations, ESPN and YES Network had quite different production requirements. Designing an infrastructure that was totally flexible allowed Game Creek to keep costs under control by using a single design and duplicating the installation.

A key decision for all of these trucks was adoption of Standard Definition monitoring for the majority of the sources, using HD monitors only in critical viewing areas. Diversified Systems installed down-converting distribution amplifiers on all sources and tied control of the HD program router to an SD composite router for monitoring. This innovative approach provided a transparent monitoring solution to the production crew while significantly lowering the cost of monitoring.

Evertz was a key vendor in these projects, providing distribution, up/down-conversion, cross-converters and frame syncs, all controlled by their Vistalink network control panels. The engineering team did a great job applying many different technologies from their product line to achieve the level of flexibility required by the end-users.

You can see these next-generation trucks at major sporting and entertainment events throughout the country, covering a wide range of venues from major concerts, the U.S. Tennis Open and complete coverage of the 2004 World Series.



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