

Sky News mixes Business and Weather with Kahuna

Executive Summary

Australian News Channel (Sky News) is a leading news provider in the Australian and New Zealand market with multi-platform delivery of breaking news and headlines, business, sport and weather, as well as entertainment.

For this project Sky News required two new vision mixers for their Business and Weather channels, to be integrated seamlessly with the existing VizRT Mosart automation control system.

Kahuna 4800 vision mixers were selected as the best solution for this project.

Project Objectives

During the project scoping Sky News considered the following criteria, which was critical to the vision mixer selection process.

- Ability to accept inputs in any format without restriction
- Tight integration with VizRT Mosart automation, to make the most of the mixer's feature set
- The best available chroma keyer
- Clip store capacity and number of outputs
- Flexibility, including programmable M/E output

Product Solution

The Kahuna 4800 vision mixers were chosen as the best solution for the Australian News Network.



The Kahuna family of mixers were used throughout the development and initial implementation of VizRT Mosart, so their integration with the software has been continuously developed since day one.

The FormatFusion3 feature of the Kahuna 4800 allows inputs in any combination of formats from SD through to 4k, with consistent video delay of one frame, so precise audio timing is simple.

First-hand observation by the Sky News team of the chroma key quality left no doubt that it is the industry's finest.

The clip store was configured with ten outputs and four minutes of 1080i50 content, and the sub-clip capability allows many short clips and stills to be kept in RAM for immediate recall.

Operational features that suited Sky News' requirements for fast paced live news production included programmable recalls of M/E settings, programmable clean feed output, and ease of macro creation and edit.

Results

Rick Zecevic from the Australian News Channel commented:

"Australian News Channel (ANC), a 24x7 multi-platform news provider, had a tight schedule to transition Sky News Business and Sky News Weather to HD studios. We took the opportunity to revise our workflow and research which mixer would best integrate with Mosart automation and utilise the maximum mixer functions from Mosart. The Kahuna fulfilled this requirement and excelled in increasing workflow efficiency.

Our HD program requirements had evolved since the initial purchase and required a more complicated setup that utilised additional resources. The flexibility of the Kahuna allowed these changes to be implemented and the new look achieved within the required timeframe. At the same time we retained operational flexibility within the Mosart automation control.



Training was a significant factor, we had the services of Mark Parlett from SAM who carried out the training for operators from beginner to advanced levels."

"Everyone managed to operate the system with ease after a day of training."