Mixing for a new vision

Executive Summary

Television New Zealand Limited, more commonly referred to as TVNZ, is a government-owned national broadcaster, broadcasting in New Zealand and parts of the Pacific region.

Each day TVNZ reaches more than 2 million New Zealanders through multiple broadcast channels - TVNZ 1, 2, DUKE, TNVZ.co.nz and 1 NEWS NOW.

Objectives

Upgrade the vision mixing system for two studios.

Challenges

TVNZ required a new, enterprise-grade vision mixer with two control panels, to share between two studios. Newscasts will be automated under Mosart studio automation, so Mosart control was an essential part of the selection criteria.

The Solution

In August 2016, TVNZ purchased a six-slot Kahuna 9600 mainframe, equipped with three M/E resource boards and two Maverik configurable control panels.

The SAM Kahuna 9600 was chosen for the studio upgrade. SAM calls the Kahuna 9600 the "Daddy of the Kahuna range" noted for its ability to be configured exactly to specific requirements, and highly suitable for multi-studio environments.

MakeME technology enables show-by-show allocation of any of the production resources, down to the individual keyer and bus level, to either of the studios. This provides for optimum resource utilisation, based on the needs of each and every production.

Key product features included FormatFusion3, which provides complete resolution independence on both inputs and outputs, with future-proofing that includes 4K. The structure of resource sharing was important in a multi-studio environment, and Kahuna 9600's fine granularity allows assignment of precisely the resources required to each studio, and quick re-allocation between programs.

The fact that Mosart was developed in a Kahuna-equipped facility gave TVNZ confidence that the level of mixer-software integration was the tightest available.

Results

TVNZ's past experience with both Amber Technology New Zealand and Snell Advanced Media (SAM) gave them confidence in the products, the ability to obtain high-quality support both for the initial training and commissioning, as well as into the future.

TVNZ were impressed by the resilience of the mixer, including redundant internal router, the ability to tolerate a dual power supply failure and stay in operation, and M/E failover to ensure that program output is maintained even in the event of the failure of the on-air M/E board.

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