

KSC Systems in Sochi

17 days with sporting excellence on ice and snow are over. To also guarantee the technical transmission at the highest level, the Swiss television put on KSC solutions from BFE. Apart from the KSC Commander systems on the OB vans of tpc, RSI and RTS, a KSC Manager system in SRG's switching center was used.

Switching Center

The central demand to have the required space for the complete equipment of the GOP switching center with a few racks only, the conditions for the whole system were set at an early stage. In two workshops, the SRG BUS (Business Unit Sports) project group and the BFE KSC team analyzed the workflows to be mapped in the mobile controller system. In addition to the German-speaking Swiss television SRF also RTS (French-speaking) and RSI (Italian speaking) have been fully supplied by the KSC system of the switching center which is designed for a highly available 24/7 operation.



All bookings for events and circuits are created and maintained in the SRG-own planning tool for the previous day. These booking data are imported into the KSC Manager system and are then available to the operators in the switching center as timed circuit bookings. However, not only the pure circuit data is created in the KSCC system, but also virtual circuits with graphical representation are created automatically. These circuits are then completed as required by the operators, or processing settings of frame synchronizers and color correctors are made.

All broadcast devices in the switching center can be controlled manually on both the interactive KSC Circuit surfaces or the operating units. The complete label management for all control panels, KVM and multiviewer is the responsibility of the KSC Controller system. Controlled devices: Harris Router incl. HView multiviewer, Stagetec Nexus, Ihse KVM, Lynx PVD, Snell IQ, etc.

In the external areas of the switching center and the House of Switzerland permanently updated event sources through freely configurable control panel surfaces were placed for the producers and ingest places. The assignment is done automatically by the KSC system representing only sources of currently running events (reservations) on the control panels - an important aspect for the producer to focus on the most important events.

Due to the limited rack space, it was decided to do without an intercom matrix for the switching center. The Intercom functionality of producer places to commentators is implemented via the KSC Commander system in combination with a Stagetec Nexus audio router.

The total of 24 multi-functional KSC operating units from the BD-IS series are not only used for routing functions on the three routers, but also as an intercom panel with talk/list function and with a level function for summing monitoring. With this solution, a concept has been implemented which allows each producer to communicate with each commentator in one of the four national languages in Switzerland.

Following the Olympic Games, the technique goes on tour for the next major sporting event: For FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

Other KSC Commander systems in Sochi

SRG's switching center is not the only mobile application where the KSC system is used due to its flexibility and reliability:

The mobile production unit of the ZDF (MPU) operates its control room in Sochi with a KSC Commander system from BFE. Here an extended redundancy concept is used which can compensate for the failure of the fiber connection between the two centers with two independent KSC Commander systems in MBC (Mountain Broadcast Center) and IBC (International Broadcast Center).