

RTP, Portugal

Portugal's daily news in stable colors



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Miguel Ângelo, Head of engineering projects at RTP.

The news studio of Portuguese public broadcaster RTP (Rádio e Televisão de Portugal) is a place full of excitement and activity. This is especially so, in preparation of the eight o'clock news, when the channel has its highest peak of viewers. Adding to the vibrancy is a three by four Barco video wall backdrop, which supports the news broadcast by presenting dynamic graphical content.

BARCO

Visibly yours

RTP operates two free-to-air television channels and three national radio channels, in addition to several satellite and cable offerings. The Portuguese broadcaster had been using video wall technology for news programs since the move to its new facilities in 2004. But only recently, beginning 2008, RTP came to Barco when the video wall had gradually deteriorated to a point where image quality was no longer acceptable. "We were in need of a new video wall, since the shortcomings of our old one in terms of color stability had become too manifest," says Mr. Miguel Ângelo, Head of engineering projects at RTP. "Moreover, the EURO2008 soccer tournament was coming up in June 2008, so we wanted to make sure that we could cover this event with the best image quality possible."



Speed and image quality

Following a tender process, Barco came out as the solution of choice. "We had seen Barco's second-generation video wall technology with Sense⁶ at the IBC show in Amsterdam, and we were convinced of its excellent performance," comments Mr. Ângelo. "Next to that, Barco was able to offer the best package in terms of price, quality and support."

Barco delivered a three-by-four video wall with 50-inch, XGA projection cubes. The installation started in the end of May and was completed in a matter of days, well before the European soccer championship. By adhering to this very tight schedule, Barco enabled RTP to present this event with the best possible image quality.

Local support

One of the main tender requirements was local support. "We wanted the video wall to be installed and supported by local people that speak our language and that are located at short range," says Mr. Ângelo. "This would enable us to solve possible issues faster and more efficiently." Thanks to the support of its local partner Casa Serras, Barco was able to meet those requirements with ease.

"So far, our collaboration with Barco has been a success," he continues. "The Barco people are very easy to work with, very flexible and ready to work on any possible issue."

Built-in redundancy

It was not only the excellent image quality that convinced RTP of Barco's second-generation video wall. "We were also very interested in the system's content redundancy features, including the hot standby lamp system," comments Mr. Ângelo. "This can be a very important asset during live news programs."

Barco's unique dual lamp system automatically activates a second redundant lamp upon lamp failure. The system provides both cold-standby functionality for most economical operation or hot-standby redundancy in case every second counts.

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