

Telecinco, Spain

Flexible and future-proof visualization across the facility



“The flexibility and future-proofedness of Barco’s networked broadcast monitoring system are beyond compare, as was Barco’s support throughout the project.”

*Luis Miguel Gonzalez,
Project Manager, Telecinco*

With an audience reaching between 15 and 20% of the Spanish population, Telecinco can confidently call itself one of Spain’s leading broadcasters. Its success stems from its much-watched fictional series, either self-produced or purchased, and reality TV-shows, as well as popular children’s, sports and information programs. Telecinco operates from the Spanish capital of Madrid, where over 1,180 staff work in state-of-the-art studios. In the brand-new news studio control room, operators use Barco’s cutting-edge Networked Broadcast Monitoring System (NBMS) – a première for Spain and one of the first NBMS installations in Europe.

BARCO

Visibly yours



Telecinco's cooperation with Barco dates back to the early 2000s. When the broadcaster started its transition from tape-based to all-digital, the studio control rooms needed a complete makeover. As part of that overhaul, the shelves with rows and rows of CRT monitors were replaced by Barco's iStudio solution, complete with high-quality displays, rear-screen projectors, a Hydra controller and web-based operating software. iStudio became the featured gear in eight Telecinco control rooms, including five studios, one Virtual Control Room, one Master Control Room and one Network Operations Center.

Future-proofed solution

However, technology develops at a dazzling speed and Telecinco resolutely chooses to remain at its forefront. So when it rebuilt its news control room from scratch, the group decided to adopt the latest advancements in broadcast technology. An in-depth market analysis proved that Barco's IP-centric Networked Broadcast Monitoring System (NBMS) was the best option. "No other supplier could offer a solution with that level of flexibility and future-proofedness," said Luis Miguel Gonzalez, Project Manager at Telecinco. "Moreover, past experiences had convinced us of Barco Spain's service level and deep-rooted know-how. Barco offers innovative technology at great value for money."

Challenge met successfully

As soon as the decision was taken, Barco and Telecinco engineers teamed up to customize the NBMS, install it and test it extensively. They faced a challenging job, as the NBMS project was a première for



Spain. But they pulled it off, thanks to the motivation and commitment of the entire Barco team. Since November 2008, Telecinco's news control room has featured the NBMS solution. In a first phase, 72 SDI inputs are connected to the system, with 12 DVI outputs to be displayed on as many dedicated LCN-47" LCD displays. Ten of these screens are placed in the camera and production control room, the other two in the sound control room. The system has been preconfigured and prewired for the project's second phase in 2009, when another 48 inputs will be added for the newsroom. In total, 200 journalists will then be able to access video sources over the network.

Flexible + scalable

Thanks to its distributed architecture, the NBMS allows Telecinco to distribute video sources and metadata over an IP network across the broadcasting facility, to be viewed anywhere. "As our facility grows and becomes more complex, we have to monitor more signals from a variety of sources. The fact that all sources are now simply streamed over the network and can be displayed in any room is invaluable. Furthermore, we can share the signals between different rooms and locations, so that many different people can

view and use the same stream of images simultaneously," Gonzalez explained. A crucial factor in Telecinco's selection of Barco was also the solution's scalability. The NBMS allows the broadcaster to expand the number of inputs and outputs unlimitedly, at any point in time, so that its monitoring capacity can grow as it further expands its activities.

Ease of use

Besides the above-mentioned benefits, Telecinco's operators and maintenance people praise the NBMS' user-friendliness. Studio managers have no problem managing the system, adjusting the layout, changing the names that have to appear on-screen, etc. Gonzalez: "Unlike in a TV show, the settings are modified all the time in a news environment. So we need an agile, user-friendly system that allows us to modify details in the wink of an eye."

Open to customer feedback

The latest version of the NBMS software, which has just been installed at Telecinco, can but further enhance the solution's accessibility. Much to the group's satisfaction, it even contains new features suggested by Gonzalez and his team: "Barco is very open to feedback and really takes into account its customers' remarks. In the previous version of the software, for example, we found only two or three fonts to use on-screen and suggested that was a bit meager. Barco listened to us and has now added new fonts in the upgrade. That long-term partnership delivers true added value, which will undoubtedly make us turn to Barco again as soon as a replacement for our current iStudio installations is needed."

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The information and data given are typical for the equipment described.
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