

Since 1989, VSC Design Ltd, has been planning, designing, installing and servicing the requirements of a rapidly changing broadcasting and media industry, delivering the highest standard of engineering excellence and customer service across a variety of technology platforms.



Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) HD Facility, Kampala



In 2013 VSC Design were awarded the contract to provide the systems integration for the upgrade of Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) facilities in Kampala, Uganda. Uganda Broadcasting Corporation is Uganda's state broadcaster and was formed in 2005 from the former Uganda Television and Uganda Radio Corporations.

The Corporation is fully owned by the Government of Uganda.

With the advent of analogue transmissions switching to digital in mid 2015, UBC wanted to increase the quality of their output by moving to HD and also increase their efficiency by using a fully file based newsroom and media management production environment. This new facility would be in a new purpose built building.

Project Scope

VSC were chosen not only for their reputation and proven ability in delivering broadcast projects but also their experience in delivering projects in complex regions.

The scope of the project provided for:

- Two studios; a news studio with a virtual reality set and a large audience production studio
- File based networked production system with 5 edit suites and Voice Over capabilities
- Routing and Glue
- Graphics and Branding
- 2 Channel Transmission system

From the customer's initial requirements brief VSC developed the High Level Design (HLD) in conjunction with UBC's technical and operational teams. This included the technical furniture designs and space planning for the operational areas. From the HLD, VSC produced all the detailed project build documentation including an accurate bill of materials to allow a measured and controlled implementation process to take place.





Implementation

There was no requirement for a full off-site build and acceptance but VSC manufactured all the system cables off-site at their premises in the UK. This had the benefit of reducing the duration of the site phase, with resultant cost savings and allowing cable manufacture to take place whilst broadcast specific civil work modifications were completed.

VSC installed and commissioned the entire system in Kampala in the period of 2 months.

"We were very pleased to be chosen to deliver this prestigious upgrade for UBC."
John Hartz, Projects Director,
VSC Design Ltd

Key Technology Areas

Sony's Sonaps networked production system formed the heart of the file based system and allowed ingest of both transmission material and news material to be accessed by all the systems and users. Transmission playout used Harmonic's Spectrum ChannelPort servers to give a fully redundant 2 channel system.

Graphics and branding were achieved with Vizrt systems, as is the VR Newsroom set.

Extensive training on the new technologies was provided by VSC as this was a major step change for UBC.

VSC Design Limited
 Unit 1A St. Marks Road
 Teddington Middlesex
 TW11 9DE
 United Kingdom
 T: +44 20 8614 4710
 F: +44 20 8977 6931
 E: sales@vscdesign.com
 W: www.vscdesign.com

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