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Al Kout TV goes tapeless



Kuwaiti channel Al Kout TV recently undertook a massive tapeless project with VSN. *BroadcastPro Middle East* brings you the details

Project Focus:

Client: Al Kout TV, Kuwait
Systems Integrator: MRSI, Lebanon
Key kit: VSN, Evertz, Sony, Ross, Yamaha, Qualstar, Dixel lighting

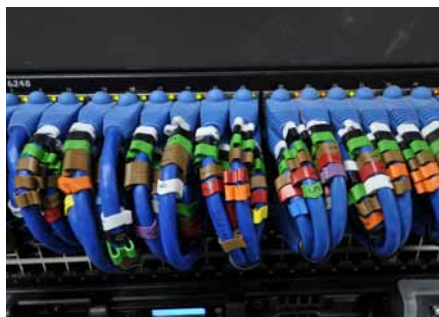
Al Kout TV, a privately-owned general entertainment channel in Kuwait, recently completed the deployment of a tapeless solution with key solutions from VSN. The project, which

comprises a complete workflow for the channel including ingest, archive, news production, graphics, playout and compliance recording, was contracted to Lebanese systems integrator Media Research and System Integration (MRSI).

Earlier this year, prior to this project, Al Kout TV put in place an entire production facility including four studios equipped with Sony cameras and Dixel lighting as well as the corresponding control rooms to operate two studios at a time.

Now, with the inclusion of a tapeless workflow, Al Kout TV has a complete setup including a newsroom, archive and playout facilities as well as the central apparatus room (CAR), the master control room (MCR) and editing suites.

The new project sees the Kuwaiti broadcaster equipped with two double VSNAUTOREC ingest systems and one complete VSNNEWS news production system with 12 journalist



Various areas of the Al Kout facility and one of its studios below.

workstations as well as a redundant VSNAIRNEWS playout server and two teleprompter systems.

It also features one VSNMULTICOM system for master control automation based on the VMax server and is fully redundant. The VSNARCHIVE manages the media catalogue at three levels including online, nearline and offline. The workflow includes tight integration with a Xenon routing switcher from Evertz, an LTO4 (Xendata) Qualstar tape library, a 16TB FC storage system and four Edius broadcast NLE stations. The channel, which currently works with DV25 formats, has also invested in VSN's graphics system, its render farm and its compliance recording system.

"We have the first complete tapeless solution in Kuwait," claims Mohammed Alsayegh, vice president of engineering, Al Kout TV.

"We wanted a tapeless workflow all the way from the point of ingest to when it went on air. Other TV stations do have partial tapeless workflows but ours is an end-to-end tapeless workflow. The only place where we have retained tapes is in our archive library," adds Alsayegh.

One of the key reasons for choosing VSN, according to Engineer Abdulla Alattar, Al Kout's president of engineering was "for its ability to provide solutions for a complete workflow, its flexibility and optimal quality/cost ratio". ▶



"Other TV stations do have partial tapeless workflows but ours is an end-to-end tapeless workflow. The only place where we have retained tapes is in our archive library."

Mohammed Alsayegh, vice president of engineering, Al Kout TV



Fernando Carrasco (left) from VSN with Al Kout staff.



Staff at work at Al Kout TV.

“In addition, VSN’s ability to provide support in the Arabic language was a key reason for choosing them,” he adds.

Besides providing full Arabic support for the MAM, archive, playlist and graphics solutions, the solution provides a complete tapeless system across the workflow including the ingest, storage, newsroom system, MCR playout and automation areas.

Fernando Carrasco, sales director of VSN, Middle East and Asia adds that seamless integration with third-party equipment was an equally important part of the project.

“The integration of our solutions with several third-party systems including the Evertz router, the Qualstar LTO4 library and other equipment was an important part of this project. We have also recently signed an OEM partnership with Dell that allows us to deliver the VSN solution and enjoy local HW support from Dell in most countries across the world. In addition, our own support team is available to provide software and systems integration support,” adds Carrasco.

On-site training was provided to Al Kout TV’s staff by the systems integrator MRSI as well as various suppliers. The VSN system was assembled at the company’s factory in Barcelona and shipped to Kuwait. Presently, Al Kout TV transmits in Standard Definition (SD). However, the solution is scalable and upgradable both in terms of ingest and playout ports, storage capacity, number of terminals and so on. ▶

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