Dalet News Suite at Citi Television

Ukrainian regional station was seeking turn-key solution to transition its fifteen seat newsroom to file-based production and playout.

Citi TV in the Ukraine is one of six commercial television stations owned by Central European Media Enterprises group, the largest television broadcaster in Central and Eastern Europe where the consumer economy and advertiser-supported media are booming. Launched in 2006, Citi serves the five million people in the capital city of Kiev. The station relies heavily on locally produced, city-centric content, including news, lifestyle and entertainment programming. News is an increasingly important part of Citi's image and programming.

the challenge
Build a unified workflow to eliminate islands across the newsroom

Citi produces seven daily newscasts, ranging from five to twenty minutes in duration. The station has lured top anchors to the newsroom and made investments in state-of-the-art, digital equipment for newsgathering. But Chief Engineer Mykola Vyshnivskyy realized that for Citi to reap the benefits of a tapeless environment, the newsroom required a unified workflow. The essential elements of preparing a newscast—rundown prep, writing, graphics and video editing—were separate functions handled by different people working on separate, specialized "islands" around the newsroom. It was difficult for the 12 journalists and 8 editors to coordinate their work; directors and presenters found it hard to track the newscast preparation as airtime approached. Citi began the search for a solution that would unify and streamline the newsroom workflow from start to finish.

the solution
A packaged solution for digital news production and playout

Working with regional integrator Engineer-Service Ltd., Citi selected Dalet News Suite for VectorBox to propel Citi into the fast lane of news production. Dalet News Suite for VectorBox is a packaged, turnkey solution for digital news production and playout. It combines a full-featured Dalet News Suite newsroom computer system, centralized multimedia database and flexible media production tools with the reliability of VectorBox automated playout. Designed specifically for journalists, the system is easy to learn and use.

Built on open standards and standard IT equipment, Dalet News Suite provides a fully integrated system that can be configured to individual operations. Dalet News Suite revolves around the Dalet multimedia database which manages all of the content assets involved in news production. With just a few keystrokes, journalists can access material in the centralized, asset management database to quickly search, view and edit newswires, archived material, graphics and video. Chief Editor Ruslan Kuchartchuk explained that Dalet News Suite is the engine of Citi's news operation—from ingest through playout. Field video from Panasonic P2 cameras can be digitally transferred directly to Dalet using the Dalet MXF gateway. Taped content in DVCPRO format can be transferred directly through FireWire to Dalet editing tools or to an Avid NLE where it will be automatically migrated into the Dalet database via a Dalet Media Gateway.

ENGINEER
service

Dalet News Suite for VectorBox was deployed at CITI TV in partnership with system integrator Engineer Service.

As video is ingested, journalists can monitor, select, and share clip selections to a Collaborative ClipBin which can be viewed by others. Dalet News Suite also incorporates easy-to-use tools that add speed and efficiency to the workflow and give journalists more control over their packages. They can for write scripts, edit video, create and place template-based CGs in a timeline, and record voice overs—right at the desktop. Typically, journalists do not need to hand off material or wait for someone else to finish their stories. If a piece requires sophisticated craft editing, they send their rough cuts to an Avid suite for advanced
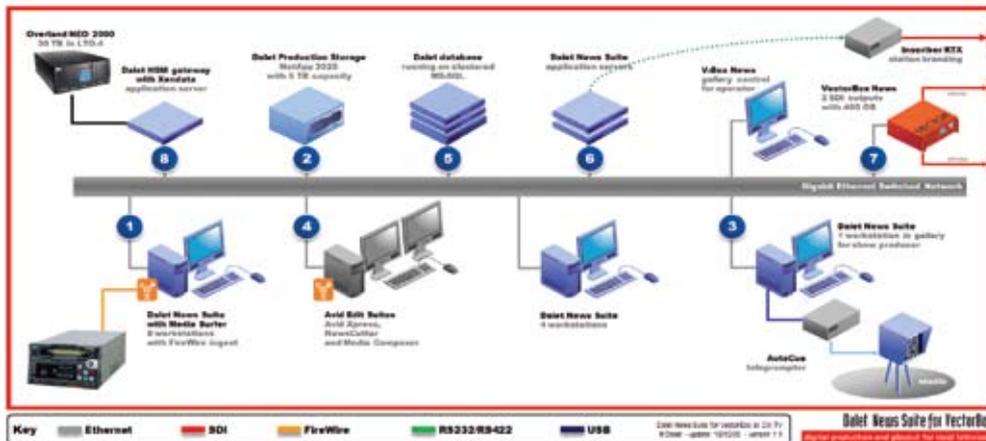
> *It's hard to imagine how we worked before Dalet News Suite. It has been such an improvement. It's given us great flexibility and really streamlined the workflow.*
>
> **Ruslan Kuchartchuk**
> **Chief Editor**
> **at CITI TV**

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Incoming satellite feeds are continuously recorded in FIFO loop mode on workstations running Dalet Ingest for FireWire (1). Material is pushed to a Network Attached System (NAS) used as production storage and central media repository (2) .

Journalists access feeds in DV 25 from their workstations (3) so as to view feeds, make shot selections and prepare their stories. All operations are tracked by the Dalet News Suite database server (4). Selected shots are saved to the Dalet Collaborative Clip-Bin which is available on all authorized workstations (3 and 5). Editors finalize packages using Dalet MediaCutter workstations (5). Packages are automatically moved by Dalet application servers (6) from the production storage (2) to both VectorBox play-out servers (7). Producers use their Dalet News Suite workstation (3) to assign stories, build rundowns and track the show on-air. During a show, any modification in the line-up is echoed in the VectorBox (7) play-list and the teleprompter is dynamically updated (8).

editing. Kuchartchuk explains that journalists appreciate the sense of "ownership" and self-reliance that Dalet News Suite gives them on their productions. Because the newscast rundown in Dalet is constantly updated, showing approvals and status, everyone involved—writers, editors, directors and presenters—see the newscast as a whole, as it evolves from the assignment stage through to playout. As a packaged solution, Dalet News Suite for VectorBox provides seamless, dynamic and bi-directional updates between the Dalet digital newsroom and the VectorBox playout platform. Rundowns, story-status, media and associated CGs are automatically updated and pushed from the Dalet News Suite content catalogue to the VectorBox playout server.

Both systems are constantly aware of any changes. Even last minute alterations to the Dalet News Suite rundown are automatically sent to the teleprompter and VectorBox video server providing flawless execution. Because CGs are rendered dynamically by VectorBox during broadcast rather than "burned in," the video remains pristine, preserved for archival purposes and for easy repurposing or use on additional television channels, future programs, web or mobile platforms.

the benefits
A streamlined workflow that offers greater flexibility

The Dalet unified database empowered the Citi staff while adding organization and efficiency. "*It's hard to imagine how we worked before,*" said Chief Editor Kuchartchuk. "*Dalet News Suite has been such an improvement. It's given us great flexibility and really streamlined the workflow.*" He comments that journalists found the system easy to use. Even though most were not craft editors, they quickly learned to edit with Dalet editing tools. Chief Engineer Mykola Vyshnivskyy explains that Dalet News Suite provided additional benefits, including easy archiving and multi-platform production capabilities. In Dalet, near-line archiving of any asset can be triggered by simply changing its status.

A low-bit rate proxy is generated on-the-fly; the proxy is available for online searching and viewing. The high-resolution file is pushed to a Xendata hierarchal storage management (HSM) system that seamlessly migrates material to an IT tape library. Later this year, Citi will extend the media management capabilities of the system by adding more rendering agents and a Dalet interface that will allow journalists to automatically publish news content to the station's increasingly popular Citi website.

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