

Case Study

High-performance OB van - or when the OB9 hits the road



TV SKYLINE have been specializing in live sports, show, music, event and industry productions for more than 25 years. The company rents out its OB fleet including technical personnel for TV recordings for events throughout Europe. In addition, TV SKYLINE are leading suppliers of special cameras and have their own film studios.

Looking at the number of OB truck fleets at major sporting events makes it hard to imagine the high-end technology they contain and its technical complexity. The audience at home simply enjoy the live broadcast of a sports event on TV without having to think about the high-performance equipment and the teams of broadcast specialists behind the scenes.

In order to meet the increasing demand of their customers in the future, TV SKYLINE produced the OB9 of their OB truck fleet in the summer of 2018. Even though this truck is a little smaller than its predecessor, the OB8, it looks just as impressive and is in no way inferior in terms of technology. The OB9 has a lot of high performance equipment on board. The ninth truck of the OB fleet comes with the most modern and high-quality broadcast technology, which is specially designed for the requirements of live productions such as the Cyclastics in Hamburg, the German Bundesliga and top matches in Austria, the Ice Hockey Champions League, the Handball Champions League EHF and the Ladies European Golf Tour.



Even though the OB9 has only been on the road for a few weeks, the order books are packed already. Maybe this is due to TV SKYLINE's special implementation concept, which attaches great importance not only to state-of-the-art technology, but above all also to workplace ergonomics, interior fittings and design. „We don't just rent tin cans with technical equipment, but mobile high-end broadcast production units, integrated into a high-quality feel-good atmosphere,“ says Laurent Schiltz, Technical Operations Manager for the entire fleet of OB trucks at TV SKYLINE.

The latest truck – the OB9 – was also developed under the leadership of Laurent Schiltz and offers 22 workplaces distributed over 5 rooms.

Technical requirements

Many requirements had to be considered during the designing process of the OB van: The truck required a powerful matrix solution that would enable the implementation of new, modern and efficient workstations for improved workflows and at the same time meet the requirements for safety,

G&D
IF IT'S KVM



Overview

Customer

TV SKYLINE is an innovative TV and broadcast service provider with more than 25 years of experience in high-end productions. The company's core business is the rental of high-quality broadcast technology such as OB vans, flight pack control technology, special cameras or the provision of complete studio solutions. Among their customers are numerous well-known German TV stations and broadcast productions.

Project

The OB9 truck has been designed with state-of-the-art technology and with a focus on the best workplace ergonomics. Great emphasis was placed on multifunctionality through a flexible room concept and innovative, high-quality design. For all the equipment, the broadcast service providers relied on renowned manufacturers to implement their „best-of-breed“ concept.

Challenges

- ▶ The innovative service providers, who produced the OB9 on their own, have truly mastered the task of harmonizing the high-end equipment with the high-quality design concept without having to compromise on space.

Equipment

KVM-Matrix:

ControlCenter-Compact32
Various DVI-CPU's, various DVI-CON's,
VGA-CPU's, DVI-FiberLink

Result and benefits

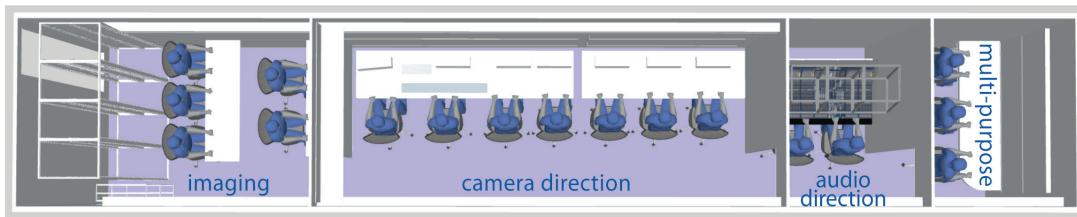
One of the most modern OB vans for high-end live productions, which excels with high-quality design, best technology and workplace ergonomics.

- ▶ Multifunctionality and state-of-the-art equipment
- ▶ Room design with maximum flexibility
- ▶ Innovative operating and design concept
- ▶ Ergonomic and comfortable desks in a relaxing atmosphere

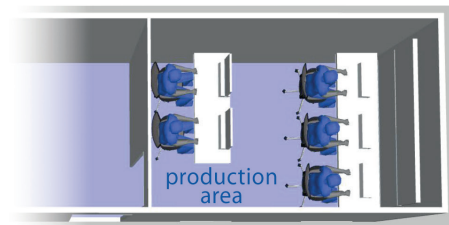
productivity and optimised maintenance. Live broadcasts of sports events or music events leave no room for error. Here, the KVM technology has to support the producers in their work yet run perfectly but invisibly in the background. It quickly became clear that only the best technology was worth considering – the KVM systems of German manufacturers Guntermann & Drunck.

The KVM matrix enables the spatial separation between humans and technology. The computers were stored in a storage unit from where they can be accessed via KVM peripheral modules at the remote workstations. Producers don't notice any difference in their daily work, the computer equipment „behaves“ as if it were still physically under the producer's desk.

quickly switch between the individual video channels at the touch of a button. The result was a high-performance OB truck with sophisticated design, technology and ergonomics that offers completely computer-free workplaces. The installed KVM equipment also fulfils its functions of supporting the work of the producers and enabling them to work as simply, intuitively and efficiently as possible during continuous operation.



OB van



equipment truck

▲ Construction of the OB van

Thanks to the ControlCenter-Compact, twelve high-performance and noisy computers could be removed from the working environment. DVI-CON KVM receivers ensure that the computers remain available in real time and at full performance at up to 22 workstations. A sophisticated rights management system regulates which producer is allowed to switch to which computers. The video servers process the video signals from over 18 Grass Valley LDX 86N and Ikegami HDK97A cameras in the background and output them to the control room staff, who have to decide within fractions of a second which camera they need to switch to. Thanks to latency-free operation and pixel-perfect image quality, the producers are not aware that they work on remote computers.

Outlook

The entire planning and construction phase, from the chassis to the design and furniture installations as well as the audio, video and network infrastructure, took only five months. Although the OB9 has only been rolling on Europe's roads for a few weeks, the initial response from customers and partners is more than positive and the order books are more than full. And the next OB truck from TV SKYLINE is already in the making.

Implementation

The OB9 consists of the actual outside broadcast van and an additional equipment truck. The OB truck itself houses the video technology, the video control room, the sound control room and a multifunctional room, e.g. for post-production, graphics or editing, as well as the entire technical equipment. The sub-direction, on the other hand, is located in the equipment truck.

TV SKYLINE relied on a KVM matrix from G&D, the ControlCenter-Compact, to be able to remove the powerful and loud computer technology from the workstations and place it in the technical storage unit at the rear of the truck.

In order to merge OB van and equipment truck, the workstations in the equipment truck were separated via DVI-FiberLink devices. A G&D OperatorPanel for the image mixer GUI was also placed here in order to



▲ Relaxing atmosphere at the OB van from TV SKYLINE



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