

Inmarsat gains kudos for CNN BGAN system

Inmarsat has received industry recognition for its Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) services thanks to CNN winning the top prize at the influential IBC Innovation Awards. The award was presented at IBC for the company's innovative digital newsgathering system, which is powered by BGAN. The CNN-led team won both the IBC Innovation Award for Content Creation and the Judges' Award at the ceremony in Amsterdam.

CNN's digital newsgathering (DNG) solution is based on combining highly-portable video technology with the small, lightweight

BGAN units for IP-based transmission. It enables immediate live and video FTP submission, real-time content monitoring, editing, and simultaneous voice and data communication. Journalists, able to carry all the equipment in a single backpack, filed hundreds of stories from the moment the DNG solution went live during the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict in July 2006.

In its award submission, senior CNN journalists and executives explained that BGAN is now an essential tool for any news crew working in the region.

Michael Butler, president and chief operating officer for Inmarsat,

said: "We worked extremely closely with CNN throughout the development of BGAN, from the initial design stage to the testing and commercial roll-out. It was their willingness to work together, and the effort they put into our collaborative partnership, that resulted in the polished solution that BGAN delivers today. CNN's DNG solution makes full use of the unique benefits of BGAN, and is the perfect showcase for the attributes and ability of the service."

CNN harnessed the expertise of a range of Inmarsat partners including BGAN terminal manufacturer Hughes Network Systems, distribution partner Vizada and solutions provider Streambox. The team also included Apple, Galaxy-1 Communications and L-3 Global Communications Solutions. www.inmarsat.com



Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT) has ordered six Leader LV5100D digital waveform monitors for its headquarters in Vilnius. The instruments will be used to check ingest and output signal quality in a new file-based automated digital archiving and playout system currently being installed. The contract was negotiated by TV & Communication Systems (TVC), a partner of eQuip BV, Broadcast Master Distributor for Leader Electronics in Europe. Arunas Uksas of TV & Communication Systems said: "The LV5100D units are a key element in one of the largest installations ever undertaken at LRT. The project includes robotics, telecine and playout control suites for three channels and is due for completion by January." www.elquip.com

DK takes on BLITS

Meters have 5.1 test tone

By Fergal Ringrose

DK-Technologies has been given permission to incorporate BSKyB's BLITS 5.1 surround sound test tone sequence into its flagship range of MSD 600M audio meters.

The new test tone sequence was developed by BSKyB Senior

Sound Supervisors Martin Black and Keith Lane to provide a source ident tone sequence for BSKyB's HDTV broadcasts with associated 5.1 surround sound. (Black & Lane's Ident Tones for Surround). Provision

is made for stereo line identification, channel phase and identification of the six 5.1 audio channels, L, R, C, LFE, Ls and Rs. These channel identification frequencies correspond to notes A4, A4, E4, E0, E3 and E3 respectively.

Since its introduction, BLITS has become a standard test mechanism on board BSKyB's OB vehicles producing the Sky Sports Premiership HD OBs and on HD cricket and rugby OBs. BLITS

tone has become a regular tool in the company's HD production studios and post production studios. It is currently being used to check all loudspeakers in 5.1 configurations, as well as all 5.1 audio paths within the BSKyB production and transmission system.

David Moore, manager of sound at BSKyB, says: "We are glad to have BLITS out there in the market because it is such an effective way of calibrating and checking a 5.1 audio path. We

want to encourage as many people as possible to use it so that it becomes a common standard. DK-Technologies decision to incorporate BLITS into its MSD 600M meters will only help with this aim."

DK-Technologies is currently writing the necessary software to implement BLITS and plans to have the test tone sequence available in the next release of the software.

www.dk-technologies.com