

MEDIATEC BROADCAST SWEDEN

Grass Valley cameras and switchers cover the event for SVT and the world.

CUSTOMER:

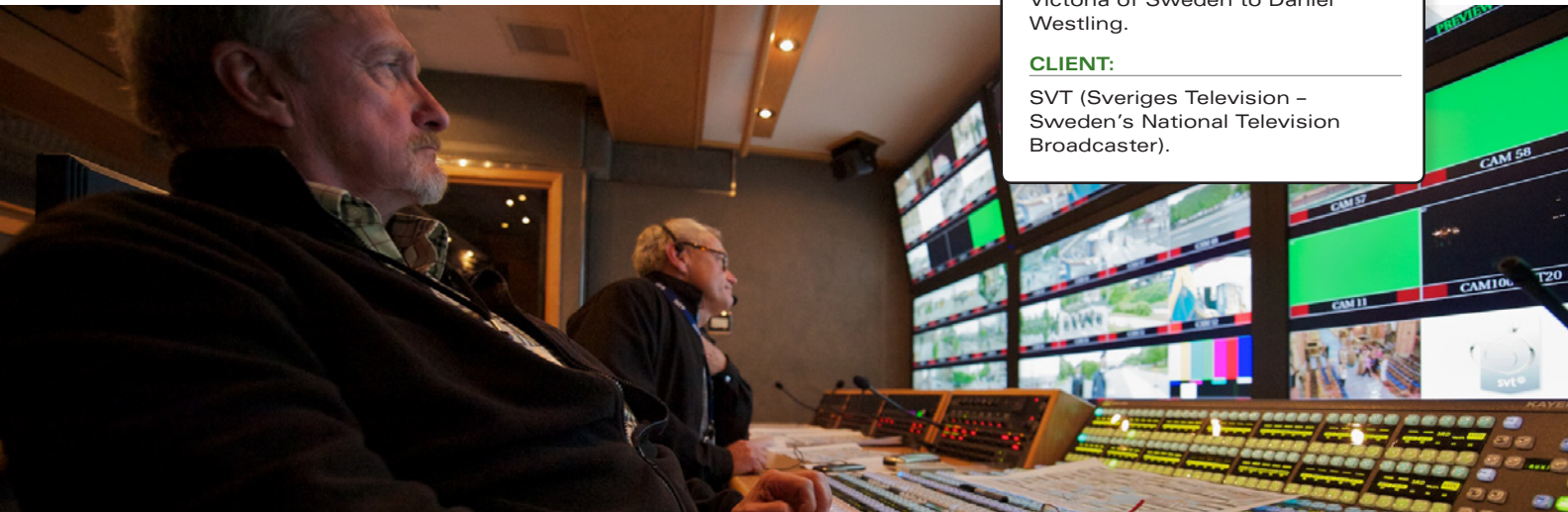
Mediatec Broadcast Sweden
(www.mediatecgroup.com)

APPLICATION:

Coverage of the Swedish Royal Wedding of Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden to Daniel Westling.

CLIENT:

SVT (Sveriges Television – Sweden’s National Television Broadcaster).



Sweden’s premiere OB van provider gives SVT’s coverage of the Royal Wedding the royal treatment.

BACKGROUND

Wedding days are always special, but if you are the heir to a throne, you can expect even more attention. In June of 2010, Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden married Daniel Westling. It was the first royal wedding in Sweden for more than 30 years, and interest was high, at home and abroad.

Swedish national broadcaster SVT was responsible for providing coverage of the four elements of the celebration: a gala concert the night before the marriage, the ceremony itself, a procession around the streets of Stockholm, and the dinner and reception.

In turn it contracted leading Scandinavian outside broadcast provider Mediatec Broadcast Sweden for the facilities, which included a staff numbering almost 200, four outside broadcast trucks, 70 high-definition cameras, and giant LCD screens around the city to make sure the half a million-strong crowd got to see all the key moments.

THE WEDDING DAY

For the wedding day itself, three of Mediatec’s largest, double-expanding OB vans were parked outside the Royal Palace. At the heart of each was a Grass Valley™ Kayenne™ Video Production Center switcher, bringing all the feeds together and giving the directors the creative freedom to add multiple layers of graphics and effects, as required.

Apart from some remote cameras in tight spaces in the church, all the pictures came from Grass Valley LDK 8000 Elite cameras. These were

supported on tripods, pedestals, and huge jibs, with some handheld, and one mounted on an electric buggy. For the cameras used during the formal parts of the proceedings, the operators had to wear white tie and tails or long dresses, so as not to stand out of place.

From an OB point-of-view, the church service and the dinner and reception were relatively simple. The biggest challenge was that everything had to look impeccable, so cables had to be concealed and grips covered, hence the use of the specialized remote cameras—they could get into unobtrusive positions where a full-sized camera with operator would be obtrusive.

The big technical challenges came from the procession, where the newly-married couple toured the city in a horse-drawn carriage. The challenge is obvious: that of distance. To cover this part of the event, Mediatec needed 42 cameras.



“The wedding day was the biggest single day’s shoot ever for SVT, and of course it was all in HD. We also had to deliver multiple feeds from everything, to serve the needs of international broadcasters as well as the audience at home, thought to be around 35% of the Swedish population. Everyone looked wonderful at the wedding, the weather was fairly kind, and the television coverage was an enormous success.”

Mats Berggren, Managing Director, Mediatec Broadcast Sweden

In part, this was solved using wireless links, some fitted directly onto the LDK 8000 Elite camera body. The electric buggy, for example, carried a wireless camera and this enabled them to get moving shots of the happy couple as they were driven through Stockholm’s streets. There was also a camera in a helicopter.

Where practical, the cameras were connected to the outside broadcast truck over standard camera fiber cable. The LDK 8000 camera is capable of delivering digital HD over 4,000 meters

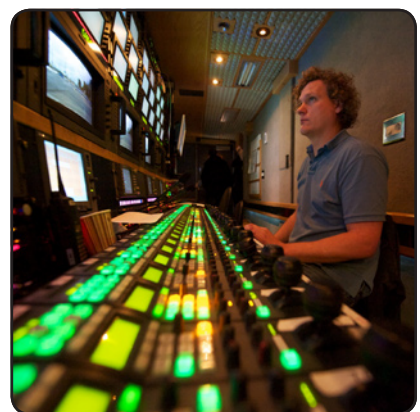
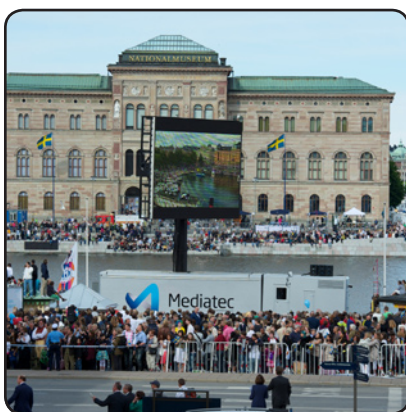
of fiber without the need for a repeater. For greater distances, Mediatec came up with a novel solution: Stockholm’s fiber network.

As Stockholm has an excellent fiber data network, Mediatec simply tapped into it. The company had developed a special fiber interface box, which put the camera onto the network and provided local power.

Because of the way that Grass Valley cameras use networked control, to the

engineers in the truck they could be matched just like any other camera. The fiber also carried the communications and tallies, so they performed just as if they were on triax. Almost half the cameras on the procession truck were connected over fiber.

Mediatec has standardized on Grass Valley cameras and production switchers for its outside broadcasts, and knew it could rely on them for faultless service during this very high profile production.



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Local and regional sales contacts can be found by visiting www.grassvalley.com/sales

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