

ORF

Moving to tapeless production studios with Grass Valley K2 Summit.

CUSTOMER:

ORF (Österreichischer Rundfunk, the Austrian national public broadcaster)

APPLICATION:

ORF produces a lot of in-house content, with seven large production studios in Vienna as well as its ten regional broadcast studio facilities. It has been a continuing project to streamline production costs through the use of new technologies, which includes moving as quickly as possible to tapeless production and file-based workflows for its entire operation.

EQUIPMENT:

Grass Valley™ K2 Summit™ Production Clients
Grass Valley K2 Dyno™ Replay System



Werner Hohl – Operator, Media Server

An early K2 media client user, ORF has migrated to the K2 Summit production client as it upgrades to tapeless studio production.

BACKGROUND

ORF, the national public broadcasting corporation in Austria, was one of the first in the world to see the power and flexibility of the Grass Valley K2 media server platform. It now has one of the largest K2 installations in the world.

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The K2 Summit is designed to be flexible in operation, with open interfaces and Grass Valley's AppCenter SDK-toolkit,

enabling users like ORF to develop their own control systems. It can also be driven by third-party hardware although many users prefer its dedicated controller—the K2 Dyno Replay Controller.

REALIZING TAPELESS PRODUCTION

The launch of the K2 Summit production client from Grass Valley came just at the right time for ORF's plans. One of the world's first K2 Dyno Replay Controller/ K2 Summit combinations (known as the K2 Dyno Replay System) was used in early 2009 for the entire Austrian version of the ballroom dancing competition show, *Dancing with the Stars*. The K2 Dyno Replay System was used to build shot lists and replay clips of the dancers' performances straight to air, without the need for an editor.

For the 2011 season of *Dancing with the Stars*, ORF extended its K2 Summit network still further with two more K2 Summits used to record and instantly edit the dancers' training sessions in

four different locations. This allows the show's producers and reporters, while watching the training sessions, to create their stories around funny scenes and events almost as they happen. This is a vast improvement from the days of having to view hours of tape to find a specific clip. Now everything is logged and cached with a simple keyboard and mouse workflow.

A number of ORF's production studios in Vienna have already been equipped for complete tapeless production, each with four K2 Summit stand-alone servers. ORF produces daily news and current affairs magazine programs and has also used the K2 platform for game shows and other productions.

"With Grass Valley's AppCenterPro and standard interface protocols like BVW and VDCP, we are able to automate much of our recordings and playouts."

Wolfgang Gärtner,
Broadcast Planning and Design Engineer,
ORF



Wolfgang Gärtner, Broadcast Planning and Design Engineer

“We have the K2 Dyno Replay Controller for those productions which need it, and can move it from studio to studio as required.”

Wolfgang Gärtner, Broadcast Planning and Design Engineer, ORF

ORF is leading the industry in its plans to make all production tapeless, with a great deal of operational flexibility to get the maximum productivity from each studio as well as its staff. ORF already has around 320 K2 operational playout channels in its Vienna headquarters and in its ten regional studios.

ON-AIR Broadcast & Multimedia Solutions GmbH is Grass Valley's authorized reseller in Austria, and has provided a strong link between the ORF and Grass Valley. ON-AIR builds and tests the complete K2 Summit sub-systems, including new software releases, in advance at its facility, so studio downtime could be kept to a minimum when the K2 Summit infrastructure is installed or updates/upgrades are performed on the systems. Seamless facility upgrades like this are an important part of maintaining a high level of efficiency.

ON-AIR builds and tests the complete sub-systems, including new software releases, in advance at ON-AIR's facility. To reduce studio downtime, ORF is using Grass Valley's SiteConfig remote network configuration and software deployment application for updates/upgrades on the K2 systems.

The working relationship between the broadcaster, the manufacturer, and the reseller can only be described as extremely important. While ON-AIR helps ORF a great deal with commercial and technical support, ORF also has excellent communications with the product team at Grass Valley in the US when needed.

“Two large K2 SAN systems provide the playout backbone of all ORF's channels and a large number of individual K2s are being used daily in news, sports, magazines, and show productions.”

Christian Hofmann, General Manager
ON-AIR Broadcast & Multimedia Solutions GmbH

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