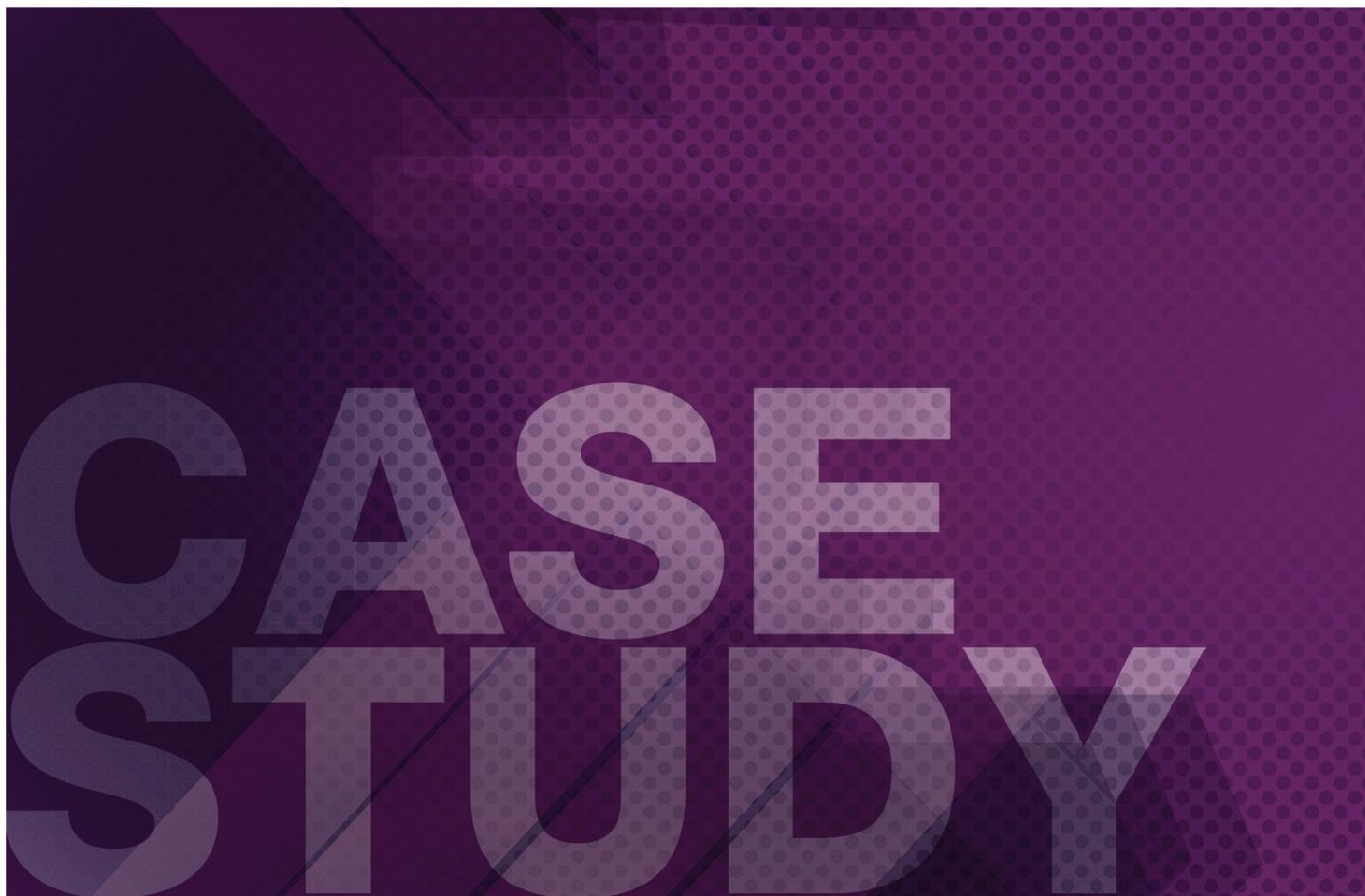




TV Skyline stays ahead of the game with Kahuna and Maverik



CUSTOMER

TV Skyline, Mainz, Germany

SOLUTION

Kahuna
Maverik
Sirius



“We chose the Maverik for OB7 because of the complete flexibility its ‘Mav’ modules give us. I can choose the size and the depth of the panel for each production — do I want three or four M/Es? This is magical because we can arrange our panel exactly as we want it.”

Jakobus Schneider, TV Skyline Technical Director

Leading German OB company relies on Grass Valley switchers for reliability and versatility.

Headquartered in Mainz, Germany, TV Skyline has been at the forefront of the OB business for more than 20 years. When it comes to live event coverage, TV Skyline knows what it’s doing; you name it, TV Skyline has covered it — from Champions’ League and Bundesliga football, athletics, tennis and ice hockey to stadium rock, pop and classical concerts and corporate launches for giants such as Porsche, VW, Airbus and Bayer. Recently, TV Skyline has begun working in a new area — computer games festivals.

The complete picture

Today, TV Skyline has a fleet of four OB trucks and four support vehicles as well as two fully equipped studios in its headquarters building. In addition, TV Skyline has developed its own range of specialist cameras to give its live event coverage a real edge. Most recently, TV Skyline has added two Flightpacks to its offering — comprehensive production facilities that pack up into around 45 cases ready to ship anywhere in the world.

Three of the OB trucks and the Flightpacks are equipped with Grass Valley Kahuna switchers. OB3 is a 17.5 ton, 10.5m, 19 camera hard-sided truck with a 4 M/E Kahuna at its heart; OB5 is a 29

ton, 15.2m articulated truck that supports up to 20 cameras, and is equipped with a 4 M/E Kahuna switcher. The flagship of the TV Skyline fleet is the recently launched OB7, a triple-expanding 25+ camera articulated truck that offers full 1080p capability and 4K UHD-readiness too. At its heart is a 5 M/E Kahuna switcher driven from the revolutionary Maverik configurable control panel in the main gallery. TV Skyline also purchased two further Maverik panels to enable separate productions needs to be mixed simultaneously from the single Kahuna mainframe, or be brought into the main gallery to provide further switcher firepower for the main production as required.

The Flightpacks include a 3 M/E Kahuna vision mixer with one Maverik control panel configured as 3 M/E and a second classic 2 M/E control panel. Each Flightpack can handle up to 24 camera feeds and is also equipped with a Grass Valley Sirius 830 router, using Advanced Hybrid Processing to maximize I/O capacity in a compact mainframe.



“We have been using Kahunas for more than 10 years and we have never had a problem on air — that is vital to us.”

Wolfgang Reeh, Founder and Owner of TV Skyline

Nothing else compares

We visited TV Skyline during its live coverage of Gamescom in Cologne. This massive interactive games trade fair and event was host to a staggering 335,000 visitors in 2014. As well as reviewing all the latest developments in interactive gaming, thousands of visitors watch top gamers competing, and this is where TV Skyline came in, bringing OB7 to drive all the live coverage. “Giving visitors great coverage of The League of Legends championship series at Gamescom is equivalent in scale complexity to a Premier League soccer match,” says Wolfgang Reeh, Founder and Owner of TV Skyline. “You have commentators, experts, field interviews, studio situations — it’s very demanding technically with the cameras and most especially on the vision mixing side. The Kahuna and Maverik combination is well up to the challenge; there is no other switcher from any other manufacturer that compares.”

Complete flexibility

“It’s a very complex show though it doesn’t at first look like it,” says TV Skyline Technical Director, Jakobus Schneider. “We were using 50-60 macros an hour and were working on five or six M/Es — with six to eight keys on each M/E in constant use. For this event, we had two TDs sitting side by side so each can have some source modules and a T-bar at their fingertips.”

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