

Application Story

Scottish Television



Maximizing space was critical in the design of this broadcast display wall

Christie's TotalVIEW™ solution is perfectly suited to STV's purpose-designed open-plan space.

Overview

When Scottish Television (part of the SMG plc) decided to vacate its cramped city center location in Cowcaddens in favor of the new Pacific Quay development overlooking the River Clyde, great care had to be given to the design and ergonomics of the new facility. They equipped the studio with a complete Christie broadcast display wall solution.

Best known in the greater UK for producing programs such as Taggart and Rebus, STV outputs signals to its four regional areas in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen.

The task of designing the new studio was complicated by the need to replace the old 120,000 sq ft space in just 65,000 sq ft of real estate, and include an expanded infrastructure. Because design and technology have undergone great change since the Cowcaddens facility was designed, STV was able to work with the architects to purpose-design four floors of open-plan space around an atrium, thus creating an environment that was both attractive and ergonomically advanced.

The Challenge

The plan for the Pacific Quay called for offices and newsrooms to intermix with post-production, dubbing/editing suites and rest areas. The technical and transmission studios were to be on the same floor, adjacent to the offices and newsrooms, but separated by a glass partition.

For these critical regional transmission control rooms the station had to decide whether to opt for a traditional control bridge, a rear projection solution or individual LCD monitors as they had at Cowcaddens. The monitor wall had to provide an easy reference for the program schedulers, but the new hardware also needed to handshake with the station's existing Evertz MVP™ multi-image processors, and be able to operate continuously over a 24/7 duty cycle, 365 days of the year.

Customer:

Scottish Television (STV)

Location:

Scotland

Industry/Market:

Broadcast

Requirements:

- Leading-edge video wall technology
- Integration of information between offices and newsrooms with post production and editing
- Compliment existing processing technology
- Easy maintenance
- Reliability

Summary:

Scottish television faced a daunting task... moving their studio to new a new location, while at the same updating to the latest in video wall display technology in space that was approximately half of their previous space. With a strategic floor plan in place to help maximize their space, they looked to Christie to help with the video wall technology upgrade and to help streamline their information and display requirements.

Results:

The Christie TotalVIEW™ VideoWall solution provided to STV was designed based on the following:

- 2x2 display cube array
- 70" screen size
- Christie RPMSP-D100U rear screen projection modules
- Rail system for easy service access without disturbing system configuration

Though STV's entire video wall is operated from a single Christie remote, the results were have been far more comprehensive. STV received the latest in video wall technology, the transition to the new solution was seamless, and project objectives were reached cost efficiently without compromising flexibility or quality.

Project director, Tom Gallagher, and head of broadcast technology, Gary Welsh, also took this opportunity to future-proof the facility at this the dawn of the new era of high-definition.

The Solution

The solution included the following Christie hardware:

- CSP70 display cubes
- 4 RPMSP-D100U rear projection modules
- DW30 HD DLP digital projector

“We didn’t need a complete control room solution and we liked the fact that Evertz processors and Christie cubes both spoke to each other. One of the underlying concepts is that we knew we would be putting nothing on the system that was unproven.”

Tom Gallagher

Decision Making Factors

Both Gallagher and Welsh had experienced Christie’s CSP70 display with 70” black bead screens at the previous year’s IBC Show. Since this system is server-agnostic, they knew it would allow the station’s existing processors to drive either analogue or DVI signals directly to the cube.

Christie was invited to STV for a demonstration. “We didn’t need a complete control room solution and we liked the fact that Evertz processors and Christie cubes both spoke to each other, said Tom Gallagher. “One of the underlying concepts is that we knew we would be putting nothing on the system that was unproven.”

As a result STV wasted little time in placing the order for four CSP70’s. The 70-inch cubes are driven by Christie’s RPMSP-D100U projectors, fitted with dual 100W UHP lamps (run at 80% brightness) and 0.7:1 lens. The cubes were delivered in their own purpose-built chassis, mounted on dollies so they can slide forward for ease of service and lamp replacement. “The main reason for adopting this solution was the complete flexibility it offered us — and the reduced installation costs,” Gary Welsh said. “This was installed by us in a day.”

Benefits of the Christie Solution

“This room is the last port of call for our entire commercial and program content, announcements and network feeds prior to

transmission,” notes Welsh. “And it’s all operated from just one handheld Christie remote.”

Back in Cowcaddens each of the individual CRT monitors had needed to be individually driven and cabled. “With this solution,” says Tom Gallagher, “the Evertz drives the entire system, producing graphics and time codes, and the CSP70s take their feed direct from the rack via a DVI converter. This enables us to monitor Vision, Sound, Timings and Alarms from a common platform that can be easily reconfigured to suit changing requirements.”

Tom Gallagher and Gary Welsh can now reflect on a successful transition from their former HQ which was carefully planned over a three week period, reporting that the big switch-on at Pacific Quay had been seamless.

It is estimated that the total spend on equipping this post-modern facility with its technology infrastructure will have been in the region of £10 million.

Contact Christie

Christie Digital solutions use state-of-the-art components to create high-performance video walls with the reliability you need for your 24/7 control room, and the flexibility you need to integrate and display real-time information from a wide variety of sources. You can count on Christie Digital not only to provide the best possible solution, but also to stand behind that solution with after-sales support and maintenance programs that are second to none.

Christie Digital has been manufacturing video wall controllers, display enclosures and projection modules, and building control room display solutions, for over 25 years. We are the worldwide leader in projection equipment.

A Christie representative stands ready and able to answer all of your questions concerning the application of video wall technology to meet your control room needs. Contact Christie Digital today to find out how you can benefit from a Christie control room solution.



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