DANMON GROUP
ATG DANMON UK

Multi-channel compliance suite for Middle East broadcast standards regulator

ATG Danmon is one of the world's most successful providers of high-end reliable and easy-to-operate integrated systems for broadcasters and programme makers.

Active in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, ATG Danmon is part of the Dan Technologies Group which operates from offices in the United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

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ATG Danmon has completed a compliance recording suite for monitoring aired television programmes. The system was ordered by a major Middle East broadcast standards regulator.

"At the core of the system are Axon TRACS recorders which operate 24/7/365, with all recording, cataloguing and purging performed automatically," comments ATG Danmon Commercial Director Russell Peirson-Hagger. "TRACS creates a continuous recording on a first in, first out basis, automatically removing out-of-date material to enable fresh recording. Running on a Linux operating system ensures high stability. Recording is performed on custom designed hardware. The 1RU frames include redundant power supplies, RAID 5-protected hard disks prevent data loss, even if one of the disks fails."

Each TRACS single channel SD or HD/SD recorder is only 1RU high. Using several fans to ensure front-to-back airflow, multiple recorders can be rackmounted on top of each other. An additional space saver is the fact that there is no need for a tape storage room. To record and store 20 channels for 90 days would require 5,400 VHS tapes which, together with the VHS-recorders, would occupy about 40RU. The equivalent TRACS system occupies just 22RU without the need for any tape storage space.

TRACS can be used to monitor the loudness levels of each broadcast channel. The loudness levels are logged together with the recordings. When content is played back, the loudness measurements can be shown as audio bars in sync with the video, or in an exportable loudness history graph. The course of the loudness levels during a user defined period of time can be shown in a loudness history graph. This graph even shows a calculated integrated loudness level over the user defined period and can be exported to a PDF or CSV file.

Representatives from the regulator visited ATG Danmon in Letchworth, UK, where factory acceptance tests were completed successfully.

The system occupies four 47RU high racks and was fully prebuilt at ATG Danmon's headquarters prior to shipping for onsite installation.

Working in partnership with ATG, Hiltron (a sister company within the Dan Technologies group) completed a satellite downlink system feeding the compliance suite. The installed downlink infrastructure includes three wall-mounted 1.8 metre dish antennas plus L band signal distribution and modular decoder/receivers. Incoming data from the satellite antennas is converted into discrete programme channels which are then routed to digital servers. Servers, archiving control software and ancillary digital video infrastructure were integrated, configured and commissioned on site.

Below: Axon TRACS recorders and auxiliary equipment in the compliance regulator's central apparatus room.