



New ZBC TV Studio, Pemba (Zanzibar)

Overview

Project Title:

Rehabilitation of ZBC TV Studio Zanzibar & Pemba

Client:

ZBC TV Zanzibar & Pemba, Tanzania

Sector:

Television / Production / Radio & Recording Studios

Completion:

Summer 2014

Project Overview:

On-Air Broadcast Systems UK commissioned MW Video Systems to design, build and supply an 8-Bay Video Control Room Console with Monitor Media Wall, 44U Equipment Rack and 22U Server Rack as part of On-Air Broadcast's rehabilitation project of ZBC's redundant Television Studio in Pemba (Indian Ocean).



We were looking for an 8-bay video console offering practical ergonomic design while also providing something aesthetically pleasing. It was also important to offer our client suitable future expansion for their increasing workloads.

MW Video were extremely good in designing our console, racks and media wall with great looks to suit our needs and worked closely with our engineering requirements which had an overall impact with us and more importantly our client, ZBC.



Peter Christmas
Managing Director
On-Air Broadcast

All photographs courtesy of On-Air Broadcast

Working with main contractor

ON-AIR

BROADCAST

On-Air BC Systems Limited

Case Study

Rehabilitation of ZBC TV Studio

Overview of Client

ZBC are a State-owned Television and Radio corporation with studios in Zanzibar and Pemba, situated off the mainland of Tanzania.

Background

On-Air Broadcast Systems UK are a highly established Sony Professional Dealer and Systems Integration company based in the UK with specific expertise in the African and Indian Ocean broadcast markets. ZBC had previously awarded On-Air Broadcast with a contract to rehabilitate their old television studios along with on-air transmission and general production facilities in both Zanzibar and Pemba, in two phases between 2011-2014.

Scope of the Project: Phase 1

Phase one was the rehabilitation of ZBC's main aging TV Studio based in Zanzibar with a Sony 3-Camera SDI Studio. The original studios were established in the 1970's by Pye TVT during the economic success of Zanzibar's clove and spice markets at that particular time.

On-Air Broadcast completed the main Sony based TV Studio, including Arri Lighting plus two Sony Production Control Rooms including a Harris router, Playbox CG, Clear-Com talkback, Yamaha audio mixers, Ross signal distribution, Vinten Tripod systems and Autocue prompters."

Phase 2

Phase two commenced in 2013 with On-Air Broadcast supplying brand new state of the art equipment including Sony HXC-D70 HD/SDI cameras to ZBC's studios in Pemba and their main studios in Zanzibar. MW Video Systems were originally approached by On-Air after seeing examples of their broadcast consoles, racks and Evolution media walls at the BVE London 2013 exhibition.

Peter Christmas, Managing Director On-Air explained "We were looking for an 8-bay video console offering practical ergonomic design while also providing something aesthetically pleasing. It was also important to offer our client suitable future expansion for their increasing workloads".





New ZBC TV studio production control room at Pemba, with 8 bay console, Evolution Media wall and racks, supplied by MW Video Systems

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“We needed to evaluate several manufacturers’ consoles and desks, in the end we decided to go with MW Video technical furniture despite having used other manufacturers in the past. The reasons were simple; the price, the good design, the locality, the logistics and the hard efforts MW Video put into resolving our project requirements.”

One of the most important and integral part of the whole project was the installation of 2 Hardata On-Air Servers plus 1 Production Server networking to 10 Sony Vegas NLE edit systems. These were designed by On-Air in association with Cache Media UK (Hardata UK dealer) and housed within the

MW Video 22U rack located within the Zanzibar TV Station.

ZBC’s third and redundant TV Studio was on the small and remote island of Pemba which had been exposed to the tropical elements such as high humidity, heavy rains, fungus and termites to mention but a few. The first tasks for On-Air Broadcast were to establish a safe and clean site with a suitable electric supply, good air-conditioning plus have all the old / obsolete furniture, wall panels and equipment removed.

Next came the installation of Ari Studio lighting, dimmers and a Strand 48-Channel Controller, new acoustic panelling and carpeting. The MW Video Systems 8 bay control room console and racks were installed, followed by new SDI cabling and Sony HD/SDI equipment.

The installations were totally completed on-site within 5 weeks with customer acceptance and hand over in August 2014.



Pemba TV studio during transformation...



MW Video 8 bay console at their factory in Hampshire....



Installation of the MW Video 8 bay console by On-Air Broadcast team....

