

## Case Study

# Kansas City Public Television Puts Kahuna at its Heart



Kevin Lambi at KPTV

**U.S. public broadcaster completes successful infrastructure upgrade by integrating Snell multi-format live production switcher in studio and control room complex.**

### The Customer

Kansas City Public Television (KCPT) serves almost one million TV households in Kansas and Missouri. Its studio productions are primarily public affairs programmes that range from small group discussions to large town hall forums. It also produces station programs, promos and other video presentations.

Whilst some of these projects are designed to go live to air, many of the shows are done 'as live'. Others are shot in segments with a switched feed.

### The Challenge

The autumn of 2009 saw a major investment in KCPT's production resources. This included the complete overhaul of the station's studio and control room complex. After a period of 20 years when the broadcaster maintained its existing production switcher, the decision was made to renew this mission critical

component within KCPT's production workflow. The challenge was to integrate a production switcher which will support the station's future format strategy, whilst simultaneously operating in today's multi-format production universe.

### The Snell Solution

After extensive research of the various live production switcher options, KCPT decided to integrate Snell's Kahuna switcher. The switcher features Snell's 3 M/E compact control surface and is set up for 64 inputs mapped to 48 crosspoints and has 12 outputs. It includes two twin-channel 3D DVEs, a clip/still store with 12 memory stores, and input/output color correction. Also, KCPT invested in a companion GUI, master aux panel and a 1RU remote aux panel.

The Kahuna anchors the control room with a four-channel Avid Air Speed server controlled by Avid's iNEWS Command software in playout mode and Avid's Capture Manager when recording.

“During production, the mixing of video formats had previously been a major concern for us, whether it was 4:3 standard definition legacy material that was still being sourced, or perhaps differing formats on the output side,” explains Kevin Lambi, Senior Director and Editor at Kansas City Public Television. “After some investigation, we felt that Snell's FormatFusion provided the easiest and best way to address our particular operating requirements.”



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Kahuna is the world's first true multi-format switcher. It offers simultaneous High Definition and Standard Definition operation in the same mainframe, with the same control panel. Even more remarkably, thanks to an advanced new pixel-filtering technology called FormatFusion, it allows users to integrate any SD material such as handheld camera feeds, graphics or archives into HD productions, seamlessly, without the need for up-conversion.

Instead of enabling operation in either SD or HD, Kahuna goes much further by eliminating the distinction between the two. Fully software upgradable, Kahuna, can be installed initially in SD-only or HD-only form and, when required, converted instantly to combined, multi-format SD/HD operation with no additional installation requirement.

The Kahuna switchers support 3D as well as standard HD production, providing the ability to perform extensive corrections to stereoscopic 3D content all within a single M/E. Since Kahuna offers internal features for 3D image calibration, operators can easily make complementary adjustments to the left and right sources to correct any convergence issues.

### Kahuna Key Features:

- Digital production switcher SD, HD 1080p switchable.
- Familiar operational control surface.
- Fully loaded DVE options with 3D effects.
- Mix effects architecture with four keyers.
- Scalability – change inputs, DVE capability, M/E power and multiple control surfaces as business grows.
- Start with SD or HD only – software upgrade for multi-format functionality.
- Outstanding operational reliability.

- One, two, two-and-a-half, three and four M/E models.
- Four full effects keyers .
- Four utility buses.
- Split M/Es .
- Programmable outputs.
- Dynamic M/E allocation.

### The Results

“During production, the mixing of video formats had previously been a major concern for us, whether it was 4:3 standard definition legacy material that was still being sourced, or perhaps differing formats on the output side,” explains Kevin Lambi, Senior Director and Editor at Kansas City Public Television. “After some investigation, we felt that Snell’s FormatFusion provided the easiest and best way to address our particular operating requirements.

“Also, we liked the Kahuna’s keyer layout, along with the power of its effects. And its ease of operation just can’t be beat. At the end of our evaluation phase, all of our directors put the Kahuna at the top of their list as our next production switcher,” Lambi continued.

“We’ve quickly come to rely on the new capabilities that the Kahuna production switcher gives us. The availability of an on-board clips/still store sure beats working with a combined DDR and character generator set-up, and the re-sizers on every key leave Kahuna’s 3D DVE open for more sophisticated moves or DVE transitions that are just a button push away.

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