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360 Systems Servers Easily Handle Hard Duty at KUAM TV

Westlake Village, CA (April 3, 2008) --- Keeping three TV channels and two radio stations on the air with a tiny staff is a big challenge, but KUAM's Chief Engineer Richard Garman is getting the help he needs with three video servers from 360 Systems.

"They have really been reliable since we got them two years ago," says Garman. "And I like the features – one ingest channel, multiple playback channels, editing and good storage capacity."

Garman had used 360 Systems audio products for several years, stacking up a night's worth of programming for the two radio stations on 360 Systems Digicarts, so he decided to go with three 360 Systems video servers. He uses one Image Server 2000/400 model to play out NBC programming and another to handle CBS feeds. The MAXX model runs the local channel's news, sports and special events programming.

As Guam's CBS and NBC programming provider, KUAM used to get its feeds on VHS tapes from the US mainland; but the servers have made it possible to capture and cache feeds via an agreement with a cable company. The feeds come in on a virtual private channel, and are ingested into the servers.

"We air some programming live, but most programming is time-shifted by 10 hours," explains Garman, "because we pull east coast feeds. Since Guam is on the other side of the international dateline, Monday stateside programming usually plays on Tuesday here." This gives him time to edit, insert local commercials and create playlists for morning, afternoon and evening time blocks. Live news is recorded at 6 p.m. and re-aired at 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. the next morning. "The Image Server editing software works perfectly," he says. "And I'm using these servers almost to the max – to 80 percent of their storage capacity."

He uses the servers' NTSC video to ingest programming and is currently looking at how best to transition to the upcoming HDTV format. He intends to keep using the 360 servers for local programming, but the challenge will be getting network HD feeds to Guam because there's no direct satellite footprint there.

KUAM runs three TV channels out of one master control and uses five edit bays equipped with Final Cut Pro® NLE workstations. DVCAM tape is used to record, edit and playback local programming like news, sports and special events. "We have a very limited budget, and the 360 Image Servers are a perfect match for our needs," Garman says. "The tech support I received was great – every time I called, 360 responded right away, even working with my error logs to solve a file name issue." Subjected to very hard use in the studio and the toll of constant surges and glitches in island power, he is pleasantly surprised that each of the servers has required only one hard drive replacement. "That's not unusual, with five drives in each machine. In terms of reliability and ease of use, these 360 System products have worked very well for us."

360 Systems' MAXX servers are a new generation of video server that offers broadcast quality and reliability at a reasonable price. MAXX Servers use MPEG-2 as the primary file format, and are available in both NTSC and PAL formats. Their extensive feature set makes them an excellent choice for VTR replacement, satellite ingest, and as play-to-air servers. The MAXX Server includes 3 video channels, and stores up to 170 hours of MPEG-2 video on internal drives.

About 360 Systems

360 Systems is a leading developer of digital video and audio products for broadcasting and Pro A/V. The company has a 36-year legacy of producing award-winning hardware solutions that bring efficiency and economy to content delivery. The company has more than 30,000 installed hard disk units around the globe. Brands include Digicart®, Instant Replay®, Image Server™ and MAXX™ families of video servers. 360 Systems recently introduced MAXX-2400 video server featuring two input and four output channels, plus 700 hours of storage.

360 Systems is a privately owned corporation based in Westlake Village, CA. More information on its products is available at www.360systems.com.

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