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USER REPORT

NEP Taps Cobalt Digital for HD Shows

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NEW YORK

NEP Studios is a premier television studio and production service provider in New York City, and is known for its premiere talent and technical expertise. We are responsible for production of some of the hottest shows on the air and have to be ready to handle anything a producer might need.

One of the more recent challenges we faced was a fast track program for upgrading two studios to high-definition operations in connection with the production of the Colbert Report and the Daily Show. Both shows had to stay in production in SD during the HD upgrade.

STAYING ON THE AIR WHILE DOING A MAJOR MAKEOVER

This was to be a very extensive multi-stage rework of the facilities in order to transition us to HD, including studios, control rooms, editing, graphics and audio.

Based on previous experience with Cobalt Digital in the remote environment, we chose a range of their products to handle up and down video conversion, and audio format conversion, as well as embedding, de-embedding and color correction.

As equipment was swapped out during the weekends and dark periods, the Cobalt gear needed to operate automatically in HD or SD depending on the signal present.

During the transition, shows are produced in SD, but HD rehearsals and HD pre-production is taking place. We're using Cobalt 9822 downconverters that accommodate HD/SD-SDI input, embedded audio, do frame syncing, and provide timecode and closed captioning support for the highest quality conversion possible when we need a standard-definition feed from our new HD operation.

To ensure that all on-set monitors are properly color matched, the video operators



Cobalt OGCP-9000

use the Cobalt 9084 color correctors, along with a Cobalt OGCP-9000/CC remote control pane, to allow them to quickly move through setup on each on-set monitor. The system gives them complete control of RGB values, along with lift, gain, gamma settings and clip settings.

CONTROL FROM ANYWHERE

We have a large plant and there's always a lot of frame syncing, color correcting, embedding and de-embedding being accomplished in connection with the dozens of signals moving throughout the operation. By using Cobalt's openGear products with the DashBoard control and moni-

toring software, along with the Cobalt OGCP-9000 remote control panels, we have achieved one of the holy grails of system design—all video and audio processing under a common control scheme.

The OGCP-9000 range of control panels can control and monitor all Cobalt 9000 series Compass cards for the openGear format with the OGCP-9000/CC optimized for the 9084 color corrector card.

With multiple OGCP-9000 control panels in use, our operators have real-time access to any of the cards they need to control. In the videotape room, operators have access to the 9033 A to D cards (providing input processing along with analog to digital video conversion and audio embedding) and the 9322

HD/SD de-embedder cards. The control panel installed in the engineering room gives access to all cards. As a bonus, DashBoard control software provides them with the ability to monitor and control all cards remotely from a PC, Mac, or Linux desktop.

Cobalt Digital products helped us make the near impossible happen, and due to their continuing reliability, are one less thing to worry about.

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For additional information, contact Cobalt Digital at 217-344-1243 or visit www.cobalt-digital.com