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LIVE PRODUCTION

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COBALT DIGITAL PROVIDE THE ENGINE ROOM FOR ANY BROADCAST PRODUCTION

Terminal gear and infrastructure are seldom discussed in terms of major importance for live TV production. We at Cobalt Digital strongly disagree! Whether for live entertainment, sports broadcasting or studio production, somewhere in the background lurks a multitude of signal processing, conversion, and distribution amplifiers (to highlight a few) that drives the engine and provides the production crew with the necessary signals they need to deliver a quality broadcast.

Len Chase, president CSP

At Cobalt, much of our development and subsequent product launches is derived directly from the challenges our customers encounter in their daily operations. CSP Mobile Productions, one of the fastest-growing mobile HD and digital television production companies in the US, has returned to Cobalt for terminal gear /infrastructure equipment each time they've expanded their series of outside broadcast units. In the words of Len Chase, President of CSP, "we are a Cobalt house and use their equipment solely for distribution and transmission". Chase added that Cobalt Digital have been chosen for "the technical features and functions, product quality and reliability, economic pricing, and significantly the company's service and support".

As CSP readies to launch the latest addition to their fleet, they've incorporated some of Cobalt's latest solutions, including the new 9970-QS Quint-Split video processor multi-viewer, to optimize production values. The new "B" truck will support CSP's HD4 unit for major sports network contracts.

Cobalt's 9970-QS Quint-Split is an ideal match for CSP because of its ability to monitor multi-screens with multiple video signals within the production area of the truck. The processor can handle multi-format images and features autosensing capabilities (3G/HD/SD-SDI and composite). The user-friendly system allows easy screen configuration with ARC and if required, full screen capability. The 9970-QS provides UMD, Tally and Timecode burn. Up to sixteen channels of audio metering can be overlayed on any screen. Simultaneous SDI and HDMI outputs up to 1080p

are available. Multiple cards can be cascaded to provide expended PiP muxing, and up to 20 cards can be installed into a single openGear® 2RU frame.

CSP Mobile Productions have also used Cobalt equipment including comprehensive down conversion and distribution cards for the openGear® format in their existing OB units. Cobalt's down converters are working double for CSP. Not only are they being used as down converters, but as DAs for feeding analog and SDI multiples on the side of the truck.

According to Len Chase, Cobalt's award-winning OGCP-9000 is being used for control. The OGCP-9000 offers instantaneous, real-time adjustments so operators can manipulate on-air signals with confidence and precision. "The fact that you can see all the cards, everything that's in the different frames, is a big advantage. We utilized them heavily in our first two shows; we were feeding specialty projectors and had to change aspect ratios. It was very nice to have those features at our fingertips."

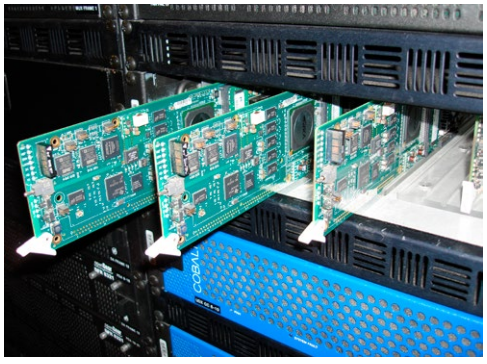
Chris Shaw, EVP sales & marketing of Cobalt Digita, stated "we in turn like to work with companies such as CSP for their input on product requirements. We listen to their needs and opinions to provide input and specification for future product development meet the needs of the OB industry."

In addition to the 9970-QS, Cobalt has recently introduced a number of products developed to address the needs of OB units as well as control rooms. The new Cobalt 9902-UDX Up-Down-Cross Converter/Framesync with auto-changeover and character burn provides a vital solution because live only happens once and there cannot be any room for error.

In any live event, especially sports, the engineering team can never be certain what signal format will be received, so the production crew MUST be prepared for every eventuality with a format converter capable of handling all possibilities. The 9902-UDX provides a high-density card based solution that offers unprecedented multi-input support, flexibility, and ease of use and integration. Up to 20 of these openGear cards can be installed in a

20-slot HPF-9000 or OG-3 frame. Multiple SDI inputs allow manual selection of input, or failover to alternate inputs (Auto-Changeover) on loss of input conditions which is vital live production. A Quality Check option allows fail-over to alternate inputs based on user-configurable subjective criteria such as black/frozen frame or audio silence. Operators and engineers can relax knowing they have a solution for every signal format that they may receive, and at the same time total confidence on signal security via ACO capability.

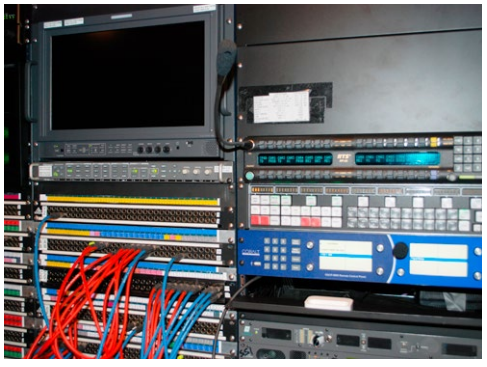
Another challenge facing broadcasters is the need for reliable, high-quality colour correction for both live and recorded events where monitors are part of the on-camera set. Cobalt answered customers' requests with the 9084 colour corrector card for openGear. The 9084 offers RGB-space colour correction with YCbCr proc features and frame sync for HD/SD-SDI video streams. The RGB processing controls provide full offset, gain and gamma adjustments. The YCbCr proc controls provide lift, gain, saturation, phase, white clip (hard and soft), black clip, and colour saturation clip – all with user memory. Parameter updates are smooth and responsive, providing real-time adjustments. Even though the card provides extensive control of the signal from the RGB perspective, it will continue to pass those signals that fall outside of the RGB gamut. Pluge and YCbCr limit ramp signals pass without modification. When the CbCr saturation clip is activated, the saturation limiting operation will not affect the color phase. The colour correction option (+color) is also available for a number of Cobalt's 99xx series cards.



Since rapid and precise control of the colour correction process is a vital issue, the OGCP-9000/CC remote control panel was designed with a special emphasis on Cobalt's 9064 and 9084 cards and the 99xx series with +COLOR option. Lighting fast access is achieved via communication with the openGear frame for optimized high-speed Ethernet control protocol. The OGCP-9000/CC offers instantaneous, real-time adjustments, so operators can manipulate on-air signals with confidence and precision. Rotary controls allow direct access to gain, gamma and black for each of the RGB channels, in addition to YCbCr proc controls. An easy to use keypad enables intuitive access with minimal submenus. A given card uses only one level of submenus to access all of its functions.

The control panel is optimized for both bright and low light environments. A large format, super-bright, wide-angle color LCD screen shows sharp and clear text; operators can select either a white or black background. Other features include a fully backlit keypad and user-adjustable LED back light. Station engineers can configure the panel to restrict availability of specific cards and parameters for operation. Configuration is done through a simple web interface, where configurations can be exported, backed up, and re-imported easily.

The OGCP-9000/CC works seamlessly with DashBoard™ control software. Any changes made with either system are instantly reflected on the other. The OGCP-9000 family of panels also includes the award-winning OGCP-9000 remote control panel.



By talking and listening to customers, the Cobalt Digital engineering team have been able to provide the solutions to meet the challenges presented by today's broadcast industry.

By Chris Shaw, Cobalt Digital Inc. – president sales & marketing

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