



## VRT (Belgium)

Resource-saving remote production, using Nevion's Flashlink media transport equipment, enlivens FIFA World Cup 2014 coverage

### Introduction

As a rights holder for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, Belgium-based national broadcaster VRT was looking to make its coverage of the high-profile event as compelling as possible while keeping costs in check. Its programming included a daily entertainment program with a live audience, before, during and after the games.

### The Situation

VRT wanted to give its coverage a distinct, accessible feel, so it created a special "sports village" in the center of Brussels. Part of this center was a 19-meter temporary dome structure, which was used as the studio for the local presentation so fans could watch the production and the match pundits in action, as well as view the games on large onsite screens.

### Challenge

To accommodate the needs of the temporary studio, the simple solution would have been to run the production as an outside broadcast, parking a fully equipped truck nearby. This option was rejected for a number of reasons. It would have meant pulling in a large number of cables, which would then have to be secured for the full duration of the World Cup. The production team also preferred to work with the proven tools and infrastructure of the VRT broadcast center rather than from the confined space of an outside broadcast truck for a period of weeks using unfamiliar equipment.

The challenge then became to link the remote site with the production base.

### The Result — An integrated transport solution

Nevion worked with its partner Network Belgium to deliver a simple and effective remote system based on Nevion's low-power, reliable Flashlink fiber transport equipment.

Compact Flashlink hardware carried 10 camera feeds, audio and intercom, reverse video feeds (so the presenters could see the matches), and all control and synchronization signals. The Nevion technology allowed all content to be carried over a single CWDM dark fiber, though two were installed on different paths to provide redundancy for ultimate system reliability.

"We trusted Nevion would provide a remote production solution that worked for our needs. But we were surprised at how small the hardware form factors were and how easily the system components integrated. It was very easy to deploy."

**Kristof DeMulder**  
System Expert at VRT

Flashlink conversion hardware was used for camera and video feeds. Audio used Stagetec base stations and mixing console hardware, again connected via Flashlink 3GHD hardware. Riedel intercoms and the base station for the Clearcom wireless beltpack intercoms were multiplexed into the fiber using Nevia multiplexing technology and audio conversion hardware.

Video synchronization signals were provided by a master sync pulse from the studio, regenerated into local black and burst and tri-level syncs, and clock signals for the digital audio, using Nevia's synch pulse replicator.

While the solution featured precise capabilities, the system itself was simple, streamlined and redundant for ultra reliability.

### Efficiency and cost savings

The remote production equipment not only met VRT's specific project goals but also delivered additional benefits—perhaps most significantly reduced costs—both in terms of equipment and personnel.

The set up eliminated the need to rent a fully equipped outside broadcast truck. Significant labor savings were also realized, as there were very few cables to be pulled in. Simplifying the installation in this way made the whole system much more reliable, as well as enabled faster set-up time.

The production team benefited too, as they were working in the familiar surroundings of their studio control rooms, with all the functionality and internal resource assignment and scheduling of studio floor and control room facilities.

The project also gave VRT extensive, mission-critical experience of multiplexed live cameras carried over low-latency transmission—lessons that can be carried over into future remote production projects.

## Contact information

### The Americas

ussales@nevia.com +1 (805) 247-8560

### Asia Pacific

asiasales@nevia.com +65 6872 9361

### Europe and Africa

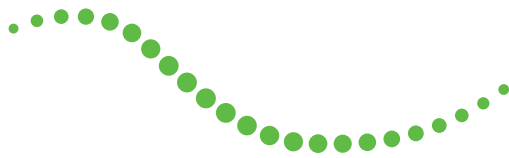
sales@nevia.com +47 33 48 99 99

### Middle East

middle-east@nevia.com +971 (0)4 3901018

### UK

uksales@nevia.com +44 (0)118 9735831



“It was nice to work within our trusted workflow. With onsite production, we expect a certain amount of non-productive time, as we need to familiarize ourselves with the different tools and systems of an OB environment. With the FIFA World Cup 2014, we were able to focus only on creating the very best experience for our viewers.”

**Kristof DeMulder**  
System Expert at VRT

### Why Nevia for remote production

Nevia's product suite carries production signals securely and with very low latency over considerable distances and for any type of remote production. Depending on the project and the location, the technology can use dark fiber for transparent transport, or existing IP fabric, either compressed or uncompressed. With Nevia equipment, as many as 240 HD-SDI signals and thousands of audio channels can be carried on a single fiber.

Broadcasters worldwide are eager to simplify and centralize remote broadcasting for live events. It's a simple equation: the less equipment and fewer people need to be moved from venue to venue, the lower the costs. Perhaps just as important, this set-up enables more live content to be produced within established budgets—a vital consideration in today's environment of delivering more with less.

As always, Nevia considers each customer and every project unique.

We assess and design before we deploy, ensuring that the solutions provided best meet immediate needs, long-term goals, and your overall environment. From there, we're always a phone call away.

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