Multi-Studio News & Sports Production Automation

Recently, one of the world's largest media companies, in building a massive 12 studio complex, chose to automate seven studios. Aveco production automation was selected for a wide variety of reasons. One key reason is that Aveco has the industry's only multi-studio production automation system.

History in the Way

The history of automated production results in other systems handling one studio. If another studio needs automation, a separate system is required. With Aveco, multiple studios can easily be combined for major events. When a production runs long in one studio, projects can be reassigned to another. This instantly moves control of the production switcher, graphics, virtual sets, video roll-ins, camera robotics, on-set monitors/walls, audio settings, lighting, etc.

Multiple MAM Integration

For years, Aveco has led the industry in integrating multiple MAMs for major facilities. This system installed required integration with EVS PAM, editing systems MAM, NRCS MAM, and a large-scale MAM-with-Master-Archive. Aveco automatically shares metadata and media across all parts of the production complex.

Selecting the Best Equipment

Aveco has the largest broadcast interface library, developed and constantly maintained over 23 years. Being the only independent vendor of production automation, Aveco works with all industry manufacturers. This gives designers and network executives extreme flexibility in selecting the best-of-breed equipment for each aspect of operations. This multi-vendor approach maximizes innovation compared to one-vendor approaches. This project included EVS video servers/instant replay, Grass Valley production switchers, Harmonic Spectrums and Media Grid for Adobe/Apple Final Cut editing, Shotoku robotics, Octopus NRCS, and Vizrt graphics.

Industry-leading Vizrt Integration

Extensive graphics control is implemented with Aveco's SOAP-level integration handling many layers of Vizrt graphics, changing virtual sets, external data feeds, etc. For breaking news, with one simple button, Vizrt is released from automation control so the CG operator can quickly respond. In other systems, CG operators are "fighting" automation until complex procedures are executed. With another click, Aveco resumes control.

Breaking News Innovations

There are many unique tools for faster breaking news coverage with higher production values, including floating shots that quickly accomplishes requests outside a news rundown. It also orchestrates events across story boundaries (on-set backgrounds, branding, graphics, etc.). Unique MAM integration allows Aveco video search to get clips quickly to air outside a rundown, during breaking news.

Discreet Device Control in Large Studios, Studio-In-A-Box for small ones

Another key reason for this broadcaster selecting Aveco was the industry's first News Studio in a Box: Redwood Studio. While five of the seven studios are fully automated using best-of-breed discreet devices, two smaller studios are assigned Redwood Studio that features:

- 8-input production switcher
- Multiple DVEs
- 4 channels of HD video playback
- 32 graphics layers
- 2 stereo audio server channels & audio mixer
- Multiviewer
- Camera robotics control
- Integrated MAM
- Aveco's Astra Studio 3 production automation

Summary

Aveco's integration of seven studios in one system provides unprecedented flexibility and consistently high production values for this major national TV network.

Aveco's multi-vendor approach allows selection of the best equipment for each aspect of broadcast operation, now and in the future.
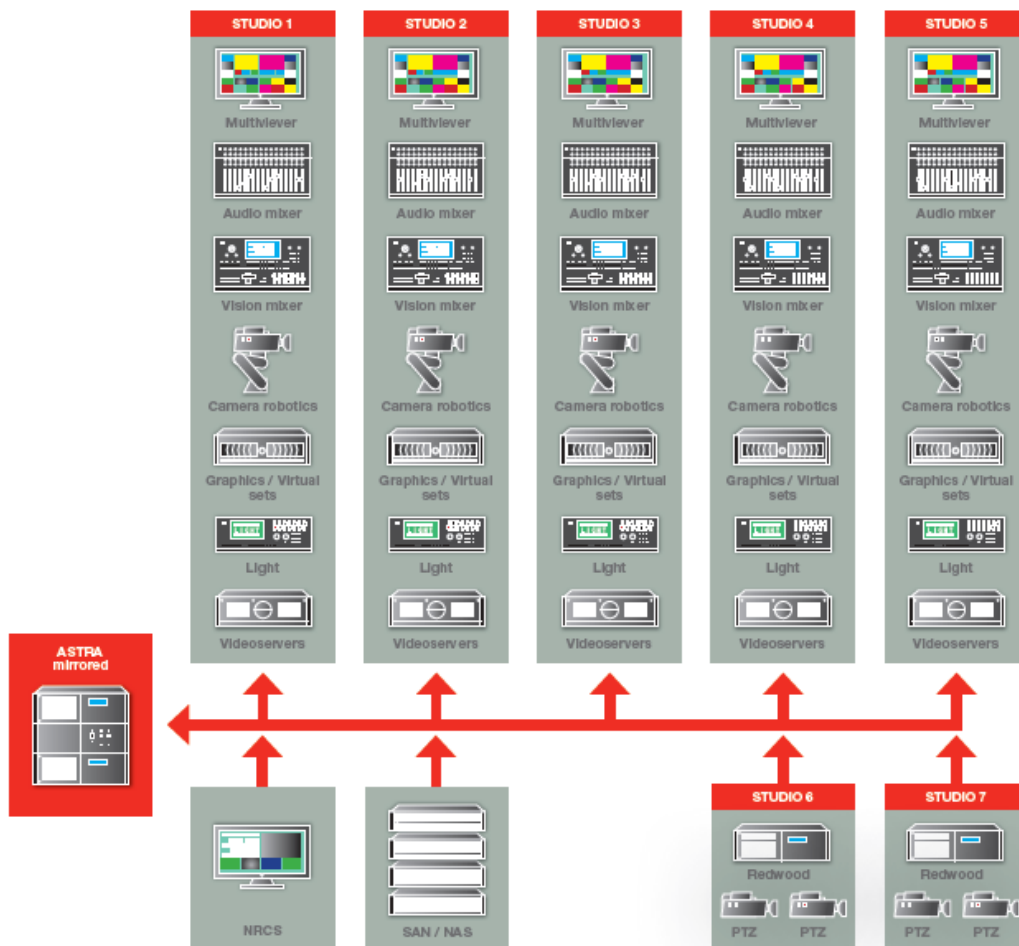
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Fig. 1 Aveco's ASTRA Studio 3 controls five large studios with discreet devices and two small studios with Redwood News Studio-In-a-Box while ASTRA MAM manages production of news assets, all on one redundant control system