

ASTRA Studio 3

Most Advanced Way to Get Newscasts
to Air with the Highest Production Values



ASTRA Studio 3 is Aveco's third-generation news production automation system. It's a synthesis of years of on air experience working with our users, listening to their needs today and their wants for tomorrow, studying the trends in the industry and understanding the economic demands facing our customers.

It includes many new features to speed up the production process while elevating production values to keep viewers engaged.

ASTRA Studio 3 – Overview

ASTRA Studio 3 controls all equipment in the production control room and studio, including graphics, camera robotics, video and audio mixer, video servers, lights, backdrop screens and more. It puts a show on air with maximum impact and minimum staff.

ASTRA Studio 3 – Benefits

- Produce a show with maximum visual impact, more than is possible with manual control. More graphics, more effects, more visually attractive shows bring more viewers.
- Reduce the possibilities for human errors.
- Integrate additional services to enhance live shows including Social Media.
- Update stories even while they are being aired.
- Quickly find relevant clips based on how a show evolves.
- Record multi-camera feeds for post-production, versioning, news wheels, online and on-demand.
- Radically reduce operational costs by minimizing staff for PCR and Studio operations.

Open system

Being the only independent vendor of production automation, Aveco works with all industry manufacturers. This provides customers extreme flexibility in selecting the best-of-breed equipment for each aspect of operations. There's no need to be tied to any single manufacturer.

ASTRA Studio 3 works with your existing equipment. Aveco has the industry largest library of interfaces, supporting essentially all studio, PCR and MCR hardware and software.



Rundown, shots and timeline

Single system for multiple studios

ASTRA Studio 3 is the industry's only multi-studio production automation system.

It not only excels in control of a single studio, but brings many benefits to designs of multi-studio facilities.

A single system can produce independent shows in different studios. It can manage complex multi-studio production scenarios as well as share devices across studios. When production runs long in one studio, a button click reassigns the next rundown to another studio. This moves control of all production switcher settings, graphics, virtual sets, camera robotics, video roll-ins, lighting and audio to the alternate studio.

PCR – MCR integration

ASTRA Studio 3 eliminates the error-prone synchronization between the PCR and MCR by uniquely combining master control and news production automation. Both run on the same or separate hardware and interface to both NRCS and traffic systems. MCR and PCR automation pass control between each other smoothly and frame accurately, without the need of operator intervention.

Tightest NRCS integration

ASTRA Studio 3 allows journalists to edit a story, even when it is already on air. As the on air story evolves, the journalists can add content, graphics, video clips and texts in their familiar environment of NRCS, and ASTRA Studio 3 airs them seamlessly.

Interfaces are available to all major NRCS brands. ASTRA Studio 3 has a bi-directional MOS gateway to exchange rundowns, story and clip status, clip metadata and template information.

Support for New MOS standard

Aveco's production automation supports the new MOS Web Control standard based on HTML5. This provides considerably more flexibility than the old MOS ActiveX interface, which tied a newsroom to Windows. Aveco provides the MOS Web Control plugin to 3rd party systems and accepts 3rd party MOS Web Control plugins to run inside the Aveco GUI.

Journalist's Point of View

ASTRA Studio 3 makes the Journalist's job quicker and easier. Journalists have several options:

- They can do their jobs as they currently do today.
- They can better define how the story is aired by selecting an ASTRA Studio 3 story template from a predefined menu.
- They can exert even finer control by entering various control parameters to the stories.

Zero preparation time

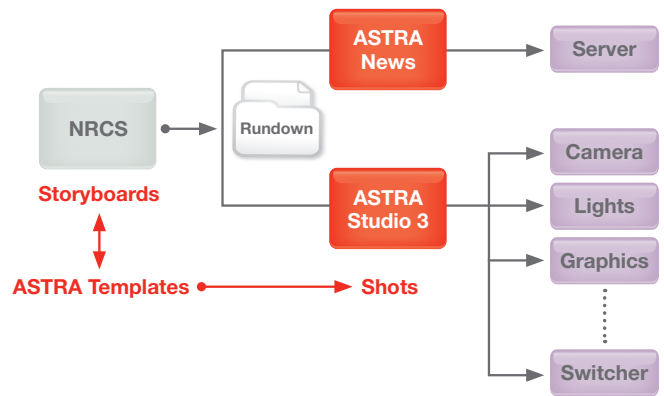
Once the rundown arrives via MOS to ASTRA Studio 3, the show is ready to go to air. Through the templates and optional parameters, stories are transformed into control events that manage the broadcast equipment. Events are then grouped into shots and presented to the operator on a shotbox control panel, in a timeline view, and optionally in a list view.

The story templates prepare all technical events with no need for operator intervention.

Easy GUI and controls

ASTRA Studio 3's GUI runs on Windows, Apple, or Linux to match the customer's environment, while the underlying ASTRA control technology remains on QNX, a robust real-time operating system, proven with years of on-air operation.

The GUI provides timeline views, highlighted views, and touchscreen operation, which can be customized by each user. Multiple hardware panels are supported giving operators various options for running the show.



Typical workflow with ASTRA Studio and ASTRA News

Flexibility on air

The director has all options to air the stories as desired. He can just let the rundown flow with pace given by the live elements. He can change the way the stories start and end or trigger sophisticated transitions. He can easily jump to a story in the future as well as to a story in the past. Floating shots provide a range of resources for breaking news - either associated with a rundown item or manual-assist for handling live breaking news. They also allow story elements go to air before the story starts, or leave them on air after the story ends. Breaking news, with all its attributes, is just one button click away. He can let all the devices in the studio be controlled by automation, all manually, or anything in between.

Multi-camera ingest

Often, a studio production is pre-recorded rather than broadcast live. For these instances, ASTRA Studio 3 now includes a Studio Recording Mode to make it easy to start/stop and rerecord portions of the show.

As the show is being recorded, an operator can preview what is being recorded to the video server. If a problem occurs that requires re-recording, ASTRA Studio 3 lets the operator stop the show, identify an appropriate splice point, and continue. ASTRA Studio 3's Intelligent Splicing feature protects the operator from splicing at points that will be highly noticeable such as areas of high audio levels, fades, or other points that would distract the viewer. This process uses video servers to emulate a VTR's "assemble edit" and can be used to record a single program output as well as multiple camera feeds.

When finished, ASTRA Studio 3 exports the assembled clips to storage and registers them with a MAM as well as the NRCS.

Redwood, the News-Studio-in-a-Box

While large studios typically use discreet devices, Aveco’s Redwood Studio, a News-Studio-in-a-Box, can be used to build networks of small studios, distributed across the country and controlled locally as well as remotely from the headquarters.

Redwood Studio provides everything needed to put a show on air. It includes a video mixer with DVE effects, audio mixer, multi-format media players, graphics, line and mic inputs, data inputs and a multiviewer. It’s controlled by the same ASTRA Studio 3 GUI. This lets operators control any studio - with discrete devices or Redwood - from any PCR with the same user experience and the same workflows.

Redwood Studio can be a standalone solution, or integrated under ASTRA Studio 3 control into multi-studio complexes or regional studio networks.

MAM integration

ASTRA Studio 3 includes a comprehensive MAM (ASTRA MAM) and can integrate with 3rd party MAM systems. ASTRA MAM includes a video search capability that can search across multiple storage systems and find needed clips quickly to support live productions.

Key Features

- Multi-studio production automation system
- Open system working with all manufacturers’ products
- Enables highest production values
- Reduces OPEX and CAPEX
- Fast response for breaking news
- Floating shots for flexible story presentation
- Multi-camera ingest
- Tightest integration with all NRCS brands
- Unique MCR integration
- Supports multi-city localization of news
- Integration with Redwood News-Studio-in-a-Box



ASTRA Programmable Shotbox Control Panel

Summary

ASTRA Studio 3 offers a great deal of flexibility in producing and broadcasting live newscasts and programs. It does not restrict or dictate the workflow. Users can start with minimal features and grow into ASTRA Studio 3’s full capabilities or jump right in and take full advantage to reduce costs and improve quality.

The ability to work in existing infrastructures with existing equipment and applications makes for a lower initial investment than competing solutions. ASTRA Studio 3 lets you decide your workflow and equipment.

PROMO VIDEO

This promo video on ASTRA Studio has been shot at SWR, Germany, currently the most advanced news complex in Germany: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Drb-jRizoDmJ-0WEVM68g>

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