

Sky News [UK]



SKY NEWS

Total broadcast solution for 24/7 television news station

Sky News, Britain's first 24-hour television news station was launched in February 1989. Since then it has provided around 150,000 hours of up-to-the-minute global coverage and expert impartial analysis, earning a reputation for the speed of its coverage and flexibility in reporting news live.

Sky News continues to bring a fresh approach to news broadcasting through innovative coverage of high profile events. And, in 2000 it launched the world's first interactive television news - Sky News Active. With bulletins every hour, and regular sport and business updates, Sky News is available to around 98 million people in 36 countries in Europe alone.

Today, Sky News is broadcasting from its hotly awaited new, state-of-the-art Sky News Centre studio complex in the UK. At its heart is the main combined studio-newsroom, complete with the first LED backdrop solution in a 24/7 UK broadcast facility. Barco has supplied all of the LED backdrop walls equipped with unique diffusers especially developed for the broadcast market, and projectors used in the news studios and monitoring rooms in the new purpose built facility in London.

Nick Pollard, Head of Sky News, says: "Sky News is an innovator. We were first on the 24-hour news scene in the UK and have consistently set the standard to which others aspire. We are committed to developing the service we offer to viewers and these changes will seek to broaden our appeal while cementing our position as the most innovative force in news television."

BARCO

Visibly yours



The first LED in the news

Sky News are known for being pioneers of new technology and the new studio is no exception. At 7,500 square foot the latest newsroom is over twice the size of its previous facility. A Barco LED wall measuring 14m x 3m, comprising of 34 tiles long and 6 tiles high has been installed as the main display wall and is nearly twice the size of the previous wall. The total resolution is 2448 x 432 pixels. This is the first LED backdrop application in a 24/7 news environment in the UK.

Installing LED in a broadcast situation is very different to any other application. The biggest issue to resolve is the Moiré pattern that can be seen through the camera. Following many discussions Barco and Sky co-developed a cutting-edge visualization solution to resolve the Moiré issues. The result is a true technological advancement in the use

of LED, creating a 'broadcast' LED backdrop solution that utilizes specialist diffusers on the LED tiles to eliminate Moiré pattern and loss of saturation during camera panning.

At the heart of the newsroom-studio is a state-of-the-art motorized presentation desk that rotates. The desk has been installed with a purpose-built LED screen, another television first, that can mirror the images on the news wall, giving depth to the picture used.

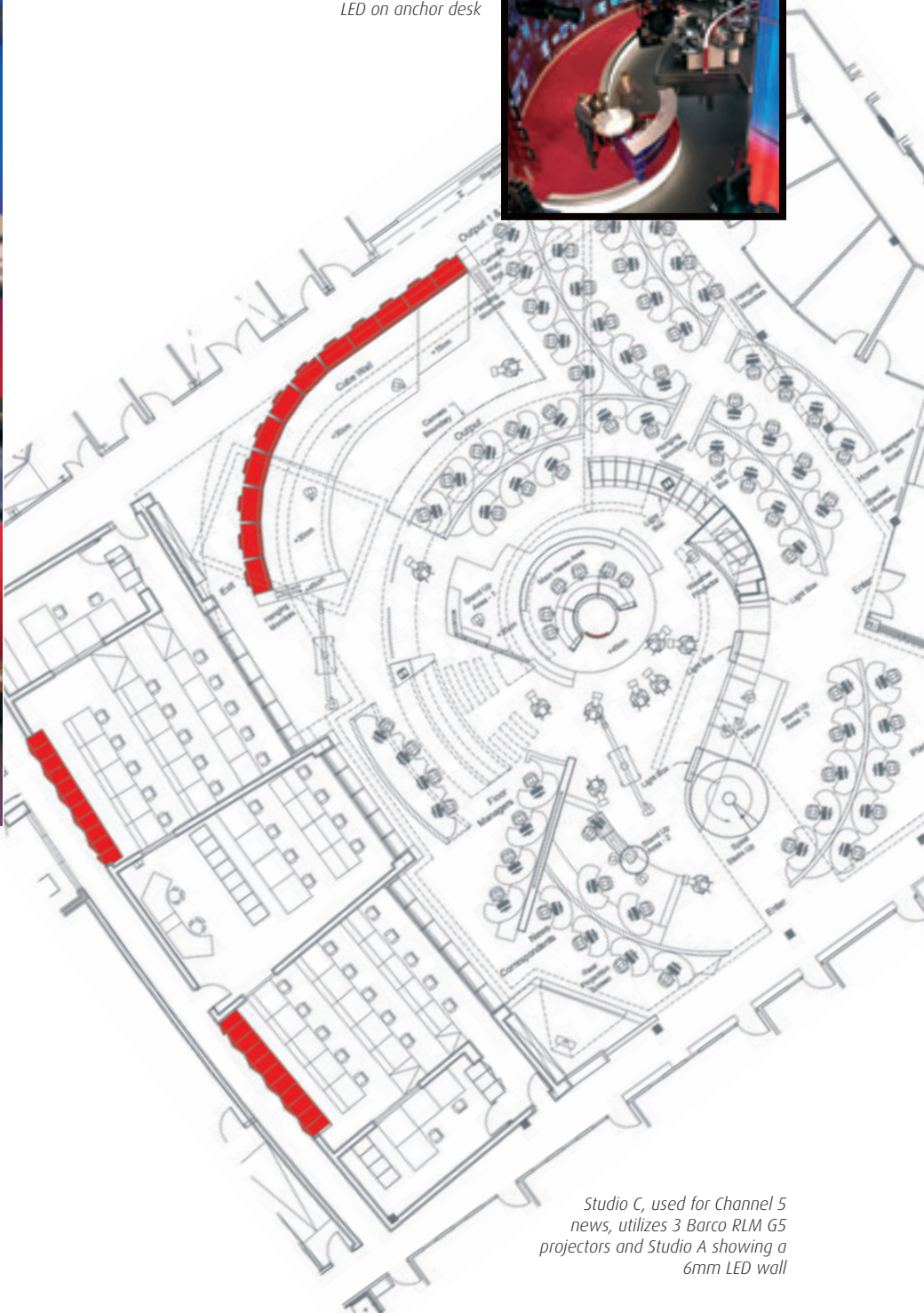
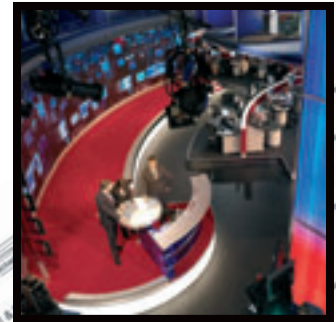
Alternatively the LED on the desk can be operated independently, giving Sky flexibility in methods to portray the story under presentation. Sky has chosen the Barco iLite 3 complete with controller, renowned for its picture integrity and flexible form factor, giving Sky the opportunity to use the iLite 3 tiles in any shape as on the anchor desk.

A major factor in the decision to purchase all of the visual solutions for the news studio from Barco was the desire to use one supplier for the whole news room. James Weeks, Technology Manager at Sky News states, "One reason for the purchase from Barco was that Barco is a total solution provider and could provide us with all the LED and projectors needed for this new and technologically advanced studio".

Stephan Paridaen, President of Barco's Media and Entertainment division adds: "The fantastic installation at Sky demonstrates Barco's ability to truly provide a total visual solution for our customers. With the LED diffusers we have another example of Barco working in partnership with our customers to provide bespoke solutions and specially developed products to ensure that the final result is a perfect fit with the customer brief".



Studio A Sky News, equipped with a large 6mm LED wall and 3mm LED on anchor desk



Studio C, used for Channel 5 news, utilizes 3 Barco RLM G5 projectors and Studio A showing a 6mm LED wall

Sky Italy

Barco are also credited with supplying Sky news Italy over the last three years with an array of iStudio solutions comprising of the displays, HYDRAS and software. To date Barco has installed around 10 solutions in Rome used for a variety of different areas including the monitoring system of Sky Meteo, the Monitoring System of Sky TG 24 News, the Disaster Recovery suite, and the Playout Room. In Milan the Barco iStudio is used as monitoring system in the Production Studios.





Left - Ingest/Playout Room equipped with a 3x1 67" rear projection display wall

Center - NewsActive Control Room utilizes a 2x1 67" rear projection display wall

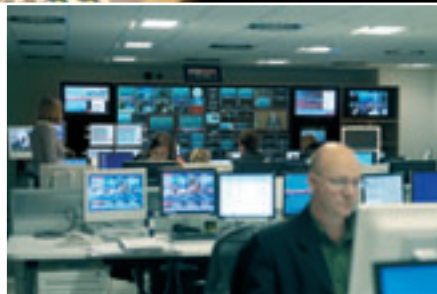
Right - Gallery for Studio A, Sky News with a 4x1 67" rear projection display wall

And the control rooms...

The **Vision Control Room** is equipped with a Barco managed monitoring solution comprising of 4 x 1 67" rear projection cubes driven by HYDRA controllers. The **Sound Control Room** is an enclosed room that provides full audio facilities for Sky News. There are Barco HYDRAS controlling the outputs, giving flexibility to change layouts monitor dynamic Under Monitor Displays (UMD's) in conjunction with the Colledia management system. HYDRA control units also allow signal error monitoring, audio monitoring, aspect ratio management, as well as subtitle decoding and teletext signal monitoring.

As well as the main newsroom studio C, the Ingest/Playout Room and the NewsActive Control Room also feature dedicated Barco broadcast solutions.

Studio C, used for Five News broadcasts, has been equipped with three RLM G5 projectors.



The Gallery has been equipped with a Barco display wall consisting of 3 x 1 67" rear projection cubes controlled by two HYDRAS and, as in the case of studio A, the sound room is also equipped with two Barco HYDRAS.

The Ingest/Playout Room, used for monitoring playout on transmission and incoming feeds, utilizes a 3 x 1 67" rear projection screen, controlled by three HYDRAS.

The NewsActive Control Room, designed for the monitoring and transmission of the feeds into the Sky News Active service, is equipped with a 2 x 1 67" rear projection screen and 2 HYDRA controllers.



Carl Peeters, President of Barco's Control Rooms division, states, "This is a wonderful example of Barco's capabilities within the broadcast industry and demonstrates how adaptable and flexible the Barco range of solutions really are".

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Barco Control Rooms is an ISO 9001 registered company. The information and data given are typical for the equipment described. However any individual item is subject to change without any notice. © February 2006 by Barco

Barco Control Rooms - Belgium
Noordlaan 5, 8520 Kuurne
Phone (32) (56) 36-8211
E-mail sales.controlrooms@barco.com

Germany Phone (49) (721) 6201-0
Dubai UAE Phone (971) 4 3914783
USA Phone (1) (770) 218-3200
Brazil Phone (55) (11) 3842-1656
Japan Phone (81) (3) 5762-8720
Hong Kong Phone (852) 2397-0752

