

UK national broadcaster

High-quality backdrops for news studios



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In early 2006, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), a world leader in the broadcast industry, chose Barco as its visualization supplier for two new studio set refurbishment projects. In total six display walls were installed in the news studios. The result? A fantastic, involving viewer experience which allows easy interaction with live onair content.

High-quality backdrop applications

Barco was selected for the refurbishment of two new studios in January 2006. At the end of April 2006, one new studio went live. Completion of the second studio soon followed.

After a European Union procurement exercise the BBC selected a total of 74 units of Barco's 67" XGA rear-projection display cubes. Configured as 6 separate display walls, the cubes are spread across two studios. Studio N6 has a 3x2, 8x2 and a 5x2 configuration; Studio TC7 has a 5x2, 11x2 and a 5x2 configuration. Each of the studios enjoys an open rectangular layout and they are independent of each other for resilience purposes. Both studios are in operation for approximately 12-18 hours a day, five days a week with a lighter schedule running at weekends.

Mr Alain Solomon, Vice President Worldwide Sales of Barco's Security & Monitoring division comments: "Barco's rear-projection system for backdrop applications has finally brought on-stage video walls to the quality level needed for interactive use in demanding, content-rich productions. The installation is part of our growing portfolio of high profile broadcast backdrop solutions. This project further reinforces Barco's market leadership position in the broadcasting market."



On with the show

With Barco's flexible rear-projection display solution, studio building teams can generally perform a studio turnaround within one hour, allowing a schedule of five to six shows a day. A valuable feature of Barco's solution is the dual 200 watt lamp system, which provides automatic change-over in the event of lamp failure within just a quarter of a second. Also of particular benefit to the broadcast industry is also Barco's ability to change lamps while the system is operational. This means that there is no risk of any downtime during transmission.

The 67" display wall solution consists of specifically adapted rear-projection modules that are designed and optimized for use in a 24/7 mission critical environment. The Barco designed projection engine integrates cutting edge DLP™ technology. Additionally, Barco's video wall series features the proprietary, patented stitched design seamless wall.

Covering the globe

BBC News is the largest broadcast news operation in the world with more than 2,000 journalists and 48 news gathering bureaux, 41 of which are overseas. They are a global news provider reaching more than 260 million viewers through the international TV news channel BBC World and more than 150 million listeners via its World Service.

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Barco nv
Pres. Kennedypark 35, B-8500 Kortrijk
Europe, Middle-East, Africa: +32 56 26 20 09
USA: +1 678 475 8000
Latin America: +55 11 38421656
Japan: +81 3 5762 8727
China: +86 400 88 22726
Or mail to sales.broadcasting@barco.com

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www.barco.com/broadcasting