

# The genesis of Superterminal

Close collaboration between Stryme and ORF

By Fergal Ringrose

## Routing Control

The story began in the late 90's when ORF Austria decided to install a new router with 256x512 nodes. This router was required to provide video and audio signals to any relevant production and playout infrastructure.

Since the chosen manufacturer's router panels were complicated to operate by inexperienced personnel and quite expensive, ORF's planning department designed an easy-to-install and easy-to-use prototype of a router control which could be used from any standard browser on any office PC.

Since the prototype turned out to be popular among operational people, it was decided to start commercial development of this system: Superterminal was born. Commercial development was undertaken by a small project team which had to learn the requirements of the broadcasting business from scratch.

Nowadays most of these team members belong to an Austrian company called



Stryme, which is still doing a development job.

One of the most demanding aspects was to find a rights management scheme. A mixed security model based on IP address and user accounting was developed. Introducing Superterminal for small local routers also gave Stryme a uniform, intuitive and quite popular user-interface over the whole router infrastructure. Furthermore it helped to save money with respect to educational

costs for the operators and reduced the number of hardware panels.

When Dolby-E and then later HD was introduced around seven years ago, the operators in the control room experienced a lot of stress because suddenly they had to construct very complex circuitry to meet the signal distribution requirements according to house standards.

This included resource management of the devices for signal preparation (SD/HD converter, A/V synchronisation, Dolby-E

alignment and audio shuffling in general, de-embedding and embedding and so on) and back-up scenarios. In some cases, they had to reconfigure all the devices affected within minutes. So this was the next big step for the Superterminal.

The team abstracted single devices and added a signal flow-oriented configuration besides the already existing device-based configuration. In this model Superterminal takes over the management of the device resource pool and makes it easy for the operators to handle even the most complex circuitry scenarios imaginable. At this juncture the team also introduced direct control of the most important parameters of devices like audio shufflers, Dolby-E line-ups, format converters etc.

Having more and more complex scenarios in signal processing, along with a lack of personnel and challenging budget situation, means that a simple-to-use yet powerful device-comprehensive control solution like Superterminal will be an important way to handle complexity effectively — now and in the future.

[www.stryme.com](http://www.stryme.com)

## Cerify in Sony Backbone for file-based ops at RSI

By Melanie Dayasena-Lowe

At NAB Tektronix announced its Cerify is now being deployed at broadcasters and production houses around the world thanks to its inclusion in Sony Professional's Media Backbone Conductor (MBC) solution. The first deployment took place at Italian-language Swiss broadcaster Radiotelevisione svizzera di lingua italiana (RSI), part of the wider SRG group, which recently implemented MBC to modernise its IT infrastructure and to gain the benefits of file-based operation.

Fully integrated into MBC, Tektronix Cerify is used at various stages in the file editing and transmission process to provide automated verification of video content. This allows the QC teams at customers such as RSI to focus only on problem content and meeting subjective requirements.

Cerify provides fully automated 24/7 QC with user-definable test templates that allow consistent and objective measurement of conformance to the allowable quality standards for specific content type and transmission channels. With a set of open interfaces, Cerify is suitable for integration into broader file-based video solutions such as MBC.

[www.tektronix.com](http://www.tektronix.com)

# Ikegami & SBP Italy partner again for camera contract

By Melanie Dayasena-Lowe

Ikegami Electronics (Europe) and Italian company SBP Spa have agreed a contract for the provision of 20 Ikegami HDK-79EXIII HDTV cameras complete with dual technology

CCUs (with Triax and Fibre capability) and all the relevant accessories needed for both studio and OB production, including a system expander.

Akira Harada, president of Ikegami Europe, commented:

"This is the start of a new era after a long absence. It is extremely significant, as we start doing business again with SBP which was the first Italian company to adopt Ikegami cameras — initially with HK-323

tube cameras and then with HL-55/HK-355 CCD cameras."

Marco Balsamo, CEO of SBP, said: "I started working in television production many years ago using Ikegami products which were

remarkable for both their quality and excellent reliability. Today, after a long break, we are happy to be back working with the Ikegami again."

[www.ikegami.de](http://www.ikegami.de)  
[www.sbp.it](http://www.sbp.it)

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