

Major US-based Worldwide Sports Network Grows with Tempest for Critical Production Communications



Situation

In 2013 when a major U.S.-based worldwide sports network started to evaluate wireless intercoms for the consolidation of its worldwide sports network facility, expandability, production flexibility and maximum availability of RF spectrum were key elements under consideration.

The project involved the consolidation of several divisions of the network into one large facility. The new facility's initial plan included three large production studios, with a fourth studio coming online later in the project. The required coverage area included several studios, corridors, edit bays, and production areas covering in excess of 125,000 square feet.

The Challenge

The new facility needed a wireless intercom system for a large number of users in three different studios that would be capable of additional expansion as the facility grew.

Although the three initial studios generally operated independently, system interoperability and coverage in common areas was a key consideration, as this would allow greater production flexibility within the large space. Moving forward, production personnel transitioning between script rooms, graphics areas etc., would need coverage, both inside and outside the rooms associated with their specific studio.

In addition, RF interference from the surrounding metropolitan area was also a serious concern.

Solution

After considering its current and evolving needs and evaluating multiple products on the market, the network chose Pliant Technologies' Tempest2400 wireless intercom system that operates in the worldwide license-free 2.4GHz band.

The network selected Tempest2400 wireless intercom because of the large number of users required and the ability to easily work across multiple areas with no RF conflicts. Tem-

Tempest® Case Study

1) FACILITY-WIDE Synchronized Wireless Intercom Deployment - Zero System RF Interference, Large Coverage Area

2) SIMPLICITY & RAPID EXPANDABILITY
Easy, Quickly-Deployed Coverage for Wireless Intercoms between Multiple Locations

3) LARGE number of users
High Density of Users Accommodated without Issue

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Tempest BaseStations within a studio can be synced as one system, and separate studios can then be synced together to create one large synchronized RF system.

Tempest greatly increases capability for RF overall facility usage by operating outside the UHF spectrum.

Quick, simple, cost-effective future expansion.

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Application Spotlight

pest2400 systems can use up to eleven co-located BaseStations with no reduction in RF performance. With up to five full duplex users per BaseStation, up to 55 full duplex wireless users are allowed on Tempest in a single RF area. In this case, the system was used in the facility's initial three studios. Each studio uses three Tempest BaseStations and 15 BeltStations.

The facility also chose to deploy Tempest Parallel Sync Generators in each studio, which allow the BaseStations in each studio to be synchronized. In order to create facility-wide synchronization, all four studios were connected using the Tempest ZSync™ system, which allowed it to be used as one system from an RF perspective. This feature is unique to Tempest, and eliminates radio interference between the different Tempest systems, making certain they will maintain their relationship with one another with no system-wide RF interference. As a result, many Tempest systems can be operated in the same facility without interfering with one another. Since the studios are functioning independent of one another, this is a critical function for ensuring any radio transmission does not interfere with each studio's system.

For simplicity and production flexibility, the network used an interesting configuration. For each studio, two BaseStations were dedicated to that facility's local crew including cameramen, directors, etc., within those rooms. The third BaseStation in each space was deployed to allow for the studio's more mobile production personnel to go outside to the common hallways and other production areas.

Tempest2400 systems offer a "Seamless Roaming" feature that allows a user to seamlessly move from one BaseStation to another with no user intervention. This standard feature, combined with remote transceiver and line extender products, offers coverage over wide distances.

Evaluation

After two years of using the Tempest2400 in the initial three studios, the network showed its dedication to the system by choosing Tempest for a fourth studio, all in preparation for a critical high-profile event later this year. The ability to quickly and simply expand an already-large system within a large facility was key to the continued use of Tempest. Assistance from Tempest's in-house engineering assets was also valuable.

The addition of the fourth studio was very simple: Three additional Tempest systems were added to studio number 4 and did not require any significant engineering because Tempest is designed for easy expandability. This new addition was essentially a 25 percent density increase from the initial 45 users to 60 users.

Because Tempest operates outside the traditional UHF spectrum, it allows for greater RF frequency availability for other devices. This was an important feature in the design aspect, as the facility is located in a very RF-saturated area. Knowing that the system can be used with minimal interference concerns was of primary importance.

About Pliant Technologies

Pliant Technologies, the new professional intercom division of CoachComm, has been created to address the unique needs of customers in the professional marketplace. CoachComm is best known for the revolutionary Tempest wireless intercom system, which is used daily in more than 40 countries in industries such as broadcast, live-sound, theater, theme park, event management and maritime as well as in many other applications. Developing communication technologies that are dependable, durable, and easy-to-use has made CoachComm the worldwide leader in critical communication solutions. Along with the new Pliant division comes new, revolutionary products. Following on the success of the Tempest wireless intercom product line launched in 2009, our team will once again redefine wireless intercom for professional users.



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