

AL KASS

Covering sports in the Gulf

CUSTOMER:

Al Kass
Qatar

APPLICATION:

Sports coverage in the Gulf region.



BACKGROUND

The world's sports fans have recently had their attention focused on the Gulf state of Qatar, after it won the honor of staging the FIFA football World Cup in 2022. That is sure to give a huge boost to the nation and the region, with a number of world class stadiums to be built which will be architectural tours de force.

But Qatar is already very big in sports, as are all the countries around the Gulf. Qatar itself is home to one of the region's most popular sports broadcasters, Al Kass. It went on air in 2006, in time for the Asian Games, the regional multi-sports competition which takes place every four years. The 2006 Games were in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

From its foundation, Al Kass was committed to the highest standards of HD broadcasting – and to technology from Grass Valley™. Its first systems were based on Grass Valley LDK 8000 HD cameras and Kayak™ HD production

switchers, and in early 2009 it upgraded its playout infrastructure with a Grass Valley K2 media server. That gave it an all-HD signal path from acquisition through transmission.

GOING MOBILE

For its latest investment project, Al Kass commissioned two new large outside broadcast trucks to augment its existing fleet with large-scale production capabilities. Although the units will be based in Doha, the expectation is that they will travel throughout the region, and particularly to neighboring countries including the United Arab Emirates.

The two trucks are being built for Al Kass by Grass Valley at its outside broadcast systems center of excellence in Weiterstadt, Germany.

Both new units are trailers with Grass Valley's patented full-length expansion to create the maximum internal working space. The layouts of both trailers are similar, with a 4 M/E Kayak HD production switcher with a

Kayenne™ XL control panel at the heart of the workflow. The switchers are both equipped with all the workflow options, allowing each switcher to produce multiple versions of an event for local, regional, and international feeds, as well as feeds for in-stadium displays.

"Since the foundation of Al Kass, we have looked to Grass Valley as our professional partner. The Grass Valley Systems Group demonstrated clearly that they could undertake the entire project, building trucks to suit our requirements exactly, including the challenge of providing effective air-conditioning for the Gulf region where outside temperatures can reach over 50°C [122°F]."

Samer Younes,
Technical Advisor, Al Kass



“While we have a series of standard designs for outside broadcast trucks, in practice we never build them. They serve as the foundation of our discussions, to allow us to tailor our designs precisely to the needs of the customer, including their tight schedules.”

Wolfgang Heil

Head of Grass Valley OB Systems Center of Excellence

Weiterstadt, Germany

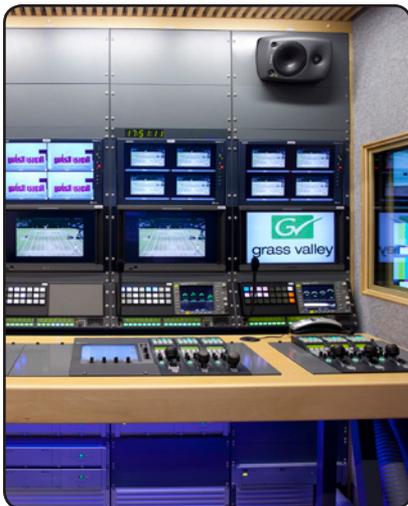
Grass Valley cameras are also standard. Each truck is pre-wired for 15 LDK 8000 Elite HD cameras, an additional five LDK 8300 Super SloMo cameras for seamless action replays, and two wireless cameras. Unit OB 3 will nominally carry 10 LDK 8000 cameras, five LDK 8300 Super SloMo cameras, and two Grass Valley wireless transmission systems. OB 4 will have nine cameras and two LDK 8300s, but productions can draw on the extensive pool of Grass Valley cameras available at Al Kass to meet the specific requirements of each production.

Each new OB unit has a matching support truck. While these are primarily transports for cameras, cables, and other equipment, one unique feature of the Grass Valley design is that each can be used for additional production space. For Al Kass one of the support trucks is being built with a glass-walled studio which can be used for presentation and interviews on site. As with OB 3 and OB 4, the support trucks have excellent air conditioning to make this possible.

One of the key design requirements for the trucks was the air conditioning. Outside temperatures in Qatar

in midsummer regularly exceed 122°F/50°C—so Grass Valley has to ensure that the staff remains cool while under the pressure of live sports television.

For the Al Kass project, Grass Valley had to show that it had worked through every aspect of the environmental protection, for example, protecting the technology from desert sand and the crew from the ferocious summer heat. It all adds up to a fleet that will deliver excellent service, a long life, and a real return on investment for Al Kass.



GLOBAL SERVICES



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