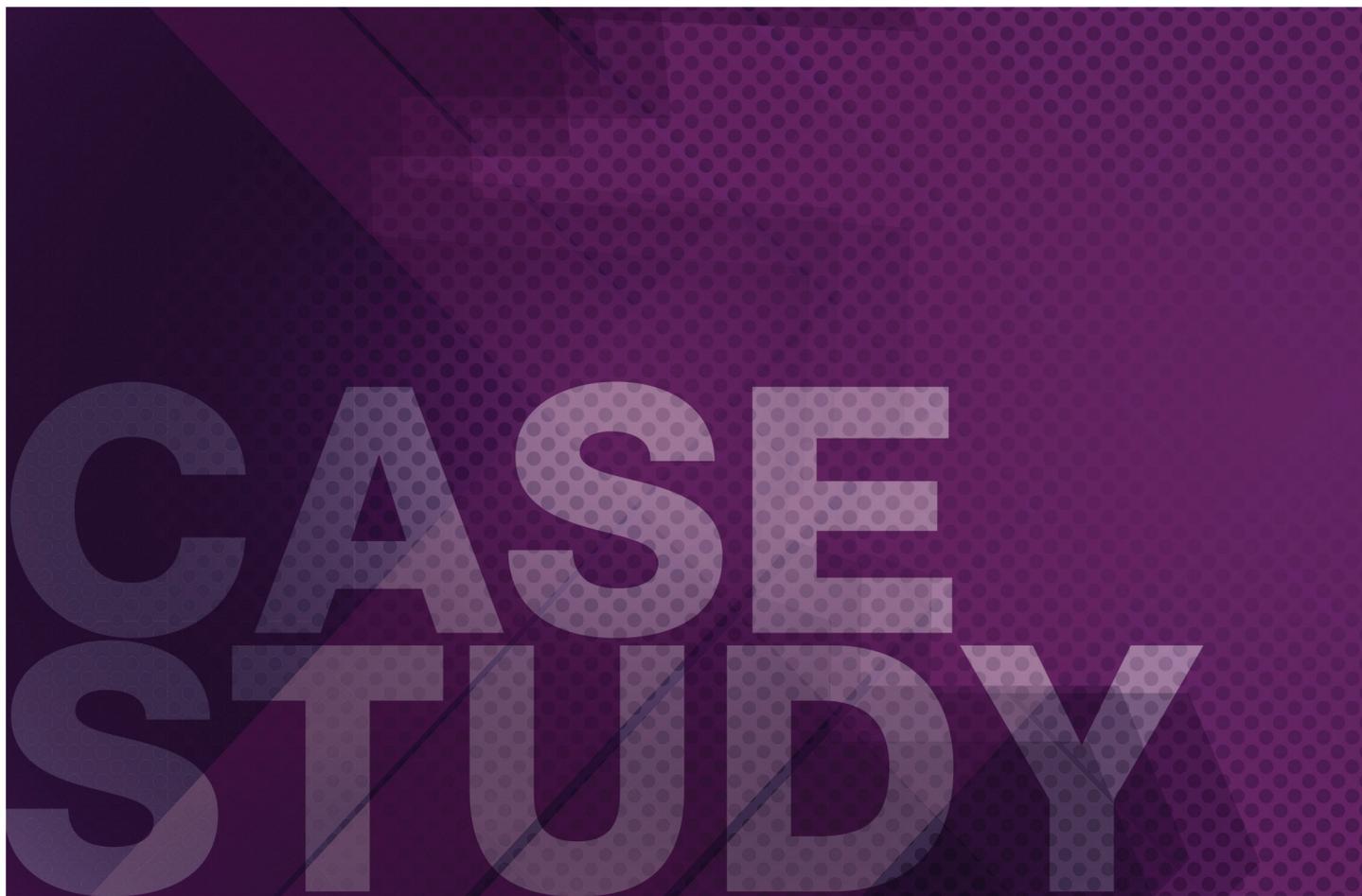


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## NINE Adelaide State-of-the-art robotics system pays off for new HD news production studio

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### **CUSTOMER**

#### **NINE Adelaide, Australia**

[www.9news.com.au/south-australia](http://www.9news.com.au/south-australia)

Produces 90 minutes of live news per day, with live interconnects with NINE Network Australia.

### **CHALLENGES**

Build a new news production studio that would provide a better on-air product in HD, as well as ease of use.

### **SOLUTION**

- Karrera 3 M/E switcher with 3 M/E panel
- 6x RS-LDX Elite C80 LDX Compact cameras with integrated robotic heads and Canon broadcast lenses
- 6x Floor-mounted Telemetrics EP6 elevating pedestals (5 dolly-based)
- Telemetrics Studio Control System with touchscreen
- 2x Telemetrics Remote Control Panel controller systems
- 6x 17-inch CueScript teleprompters, with hood
- 6x 22-inch CueScript prompter talent monitors mounted using Telemetrics confidence monitor mounts

## Background

NINE Network Australia, which reaches every capital city in Australia, holds affiliation agreements to broadcast into the regional markets in every state and territory. As part of the NINE Network, NINE Adelaide produces 90 minutes of live news per day to 1.2 million viewers, with live interconnect into the Today show and morning National News. NINE Adelaide also produces a variety of local content programs, including police crime stopper specials, Renovation Rescue, Easter Appeal for the Adelaide Children's Hospital, as well as its annual Christmas Pageant, broadcast nationally.

After 56 years in its original site, it was time for NINE Adelaide to move to a new greenfield site. "We wanted a news station that would be state-of-the-art and take us to the next level of television quality and automation," said Don Dyson, Operations & Technology Manager for parent company NINE Entertainment Company. "The system had to be fully HD, have a vision mixing system that was compatible with modern technologies and integrate with robotic cameras for our news production. Plus, our studio cameras had to be compact without compromising on picture quality. Whatever we chose had to have proven reliability within the television industry, be locally supported and offer a high level of future proofing."



## Solution

Having worked with Grass Valley since the early days of analog television, it was only natural for Dyson to put Grass Valley high on its list of suppliers when evaluating equipment for NINE Adelaide's news system. "Grass Valley has always provided equipment that is user friendly, reliable, fully supported and capable of producing a superior quality output that suits our needs," said Dyson.

But the Adelaide facility would be NINE Network's first venture into considering Grass Valley cameras. "After much testing here in Adelaide, as well as other NINE Network stations, we found that the RS-LDX Elite Compact camera met all of our needs and we were very happy with the picture quality being produced. Grass Valley also had a solution for studio robotic cameras in their partnership with Telemetrics that interfaced seamlessly with their Karrera vision switcher and our Mosart automation system," said Dyson. "Plus, Grass Valley supplied the CueScript teleprompting and talent monitoring system, so it was one-stop shopping."

"The Grass Valley implementation was first class," continued Dyson. "Being the first time we've used robotic cameras, Grass Valley set our system up in Sydney and we were able to look at it in operation before installation." We have specific needs on camera heights and operation, Grass Valley made changes to suit NINE Adelaide's requirements.

"Installation and commissioning went off without a hitch. The Grass Valley team arrived and assembled the six robotic cameras, ran all the studio cables and tuned the cameras and robotics, with assistance from a Telemetrics Engineer sent from the US. We installed the Karrera vision mixer and after checking the installation, Grass Valley went about methodically configuring and commissioning the vision mixer system."

Although NINE Adelaide had a Grass Valley Kayak vision mixer in their original location, the enhanced features of the Karrera were new to the operators. "The Grass Valley cameras and Telemetrics robotics were completely new to us, so learning these new systems was an exciting challenge. Grass Valley provided both operator and technical training for all of our staff, which was thorough and complete," said Dyson.

"Whatever we chose had to have proven reliability within the television industry, be local supported and offer a level of future proofing."

Don Dyson, Operations & Technology Manager  
NINE Entertainment Company

### Benefits

With a fully automated HD robotic camera and switcher combination, news production is tighter, camera movements predictable and repeatable, and overall NINE Adelaide is producing a better product than before. “With our studio cameras now being robotic, our news crews are able to stay out on the road longer gathering news which, of course, is our primary task,” said Dyson.

“Karrera has taken the quality of our news production to the next level, even more than just the upgrade to HD. It is a straightforward and logical switcher to use and with advanced features over our previous Kayak. Overnight we saw a dramatic improvement in our program quality output. Our directors who were used to the Kayak, found stepping up to the Karrera, after five days training, a relatively easy process. Having the ability to ‘personalize’ the Karrera by way of button layout, assignments and colors, our operators have found the Karrera very user friendly.”

With five cameras in their main news studio and one in their TOS (talent operated studio), the RS-LDX Elite Compact camera provided a cost effective solution without any compromise on picture quality. After testing in several light conditions, Dyson and his crew were very happy with the dynamic range, sensitivity and signal-to-noise in the lighting scenarios they trialed.

In the main studio, cameras are in a fixed location and during the news they often televate or pan/tilt/zoom to predetermined shots. “With talent who are taller or if the director requires a slightly different camera angle, using the Telemetrics remote panel and touchscreen makes getting the shots as simple as lining up the shot, recording the shot via the touchscreen display and it’s ready for air,” according to Dyson.

Cameras are color balanced through the Telemetrics remote panel in either the main production control room or master control room. In the TOS, talent merely walk into the room, plug in their IFB earpiece and the crew remotely sets up the camera and changes background pictures on their 103-inch monitor via AUX outputs from the Karrera mixer.

“We took 12 months to design and build our new studio facilities from the ground up,” explained Dyson. “Since we were venturing into new automation systems, cameras and robotics, Grass Valley sent a camera specialist to Adelaide for our first few days for on-air support, which was greatly appreciated and reinforced to us that Grass Valley fully supports their products which reinforced that we made the right choice.”

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NINE Entertainment Company



## Looking to the Future

The RS-LDX Elite Compact Camera with the Telemetrics robotics system will go into Sydney and Melbourne in early 2016, with Queensland and Perth to follow shortly after,” said Dyson.

“We’re always aiming to be the number one news services so we must constantly look to new technologies to give us the edge over competitors. Our recent purchases from Grass Valley certainly help us achieve this objective.”

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