



Microvideo Technology Forms KeyPart Of TV Markiza's HD File-Based Format

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TV Markiza, Slovakia's leading privately owned television station, has purchased a number of MicroVideo INS-VPS (VBI) inserters and HDS 201s bypass switches. These form a key element of the broadcaster's new HD file-based transmission platform.

Owned by Central European Media Enterprises (CME), the TV Markiza installation was carried out by UK-based systems integrator TSL. TV Markiza specified MicroVideo as a technical requirement of the new transmission platform following successful installations at its sister stations Pro-TV (Romania) and TV Nova (Czech Republic).

TV Markiza has installed eight Microvideo INS-VPS inserters fitted with an optional analogue data input. This dual purpose solution allows the broadcaster to insert teletext as well as VPS data with a single unit. VPS signaling can be used to carry information regarding the program source, station ident, VTR control, audio soundtrack and parental control. The MicroVideo inserters enable this essential data, such as information regarding the presence of multiple language audio, to be transmitted with the video.

The HDS 201s seamless 2x1 switches are being used by TV Markiza to provide means of switching to a back-up feed without causing disturbance to the picture. Each switch can cater for up to one frame (HD or SD) timing difference between its two inputs while maintaining a clean output when switched in either direction. TV Markiza is using six HDS 201s switches prior to transmission in conjunction with MicroVideo's remote panel (REM-ESW), providing straightforward operation in the master control room.

The HDS 201s can be configured to switch automatically on loss of input, or as a manual changeover switch. Having a clean switch is essential for viewers as it removes picture defects, bounces and flashes upon switching.

Central to the Markiza facility, which is equipped to a high technical specification, is Pebble Beach's Neptune automation system. Microvideo products interface with Pebble Beach and all well known automation system vendors, further highlighting the flexibility of MicroVideo's product portfolio.

Vladimir Spacek, Technical Director, TV Markiza comments, "We have worked with MicroVideo in the past, in conjunction with TSL, and have been very pleased with the results. The MicroVideo products are solid, reliable and provide excellent ROI."

Ian Hudson, MicroVideo CEO adds, "We are delighted to have been selected again by CME for this new HD transmission project at TV Markiza. MicroVideo provides tried and tested products that are essential to the transmission chain, allowing broadcasters to adapt their facilities to meet the needs of their viewers whilst always providing the highest-quality viewing experience and the lowest cost of ownership to the end customer."