FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Bricks | Transporting Video Footage (TV)

How Saarländischer Rundfunk made a year's worth of cycling footage available in its outside broadcast vehicle

Covering cycling races requires video footage to be transported to the event location. XD-CAM discs offered insufficient capacity and resulted in large numbers of individual storage media. Saarländischer Rundfunk selected removable Silent Bricks: one module with enough capacity for approximately one year of cycling footage, alongside a module for material used during broadcasts.

More camera's, more material, the same mobile workspace

Saarländischer Rundfunk (SR) was responsible for covering international cycling events within ARD, including the Tour de France and the Deutschland Tour. Production required an increasing amount of recorded footage and background material. The XDCAM discs used each offered 128 GB, enough for a maximum of five hours of footage. For a three-week event, this could amount to approximately sixty discs. According to the original case study, the team could no longer consistently archive all material due to this growth.

The editorial team would benefit from having a larger video archive available on location: clips from previous races, interviews and footage of locations along the route could enrich the coverage. The new system therefore needed to store large amounts of material compactly and be transported safely in an outside broadcast vehicle.

The experience?

"The way it works is the same as it used to be with Betacam tapes, but with much greater capacity."

Stefan Krieger, Technical Manager
responsible for cycling broadcasts at SR



Photo: Saarländischer Rundfunk, 2018

COMEX

An archive module that can travel in the outside broadcast vehicle

SR and specialist IT partner Media Online assessed the storage requirements. They selected a Silent Brick Drive from FAST LTA with two removable modules. One Silent Brick with 24 TB gross capacity, 16 TB net in the selected protection configuration, provided enough space for recordings from an entire cycling season, according to their calculations. The second contained graphics, photos, music and jingles for live broadcasts. The Drive fits into a single rack unit of a 19-inch rack in the outside broadcast vehicle.

The modules can be transported separately and stored offline. According to the plan, SR could add an additional Brick for each new season. Media Online supported the requirements analysis and was familiar with the selected solution as a FAST LTA partner.

More footage available during editing

With the mobile setup, recordings could be made available to editors on location through keywords in the FESAD database used within ARD. This made more previously recorded material accessible during production. According to SR, purchasing the Silent Bricks proved less expensive in comparison because XDCAM discs were no longer required.

The key advantage of this choice is practical: a large video archive gained the same portability as an individual storage medium, while the editorial team no longer had to work with dozens of small discs.