

Acrodyne Makes Smooth Upgrade for WBUW

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Why buy a new analog transmitter? The answer was a simple matter of necessity. The old transmitter was too small for the job and needed key repairs.

The old transmitter was originally designed to be a four-tube Diacrode but only one HPA cabinet had been installed before the previous ownership ran on financial hard times. Additionally, small problems were becoming more frequent, such as power supply failures, exciter troubles and plumbing problems. The Ai Quantum was the solution.

Our big question the first time we put the transmitter into the antenna at full power was whether or not the antenna could handle power. After all, it had never been operated at licensed power.

I would like to say that there was never a hitch after we put it on the air full time, but we have had some growing pains. First, Ai/Acrodyne had to rework the control/monitoring GUI to run a four-cabinet unit, being that this was the first Quantum that big.

Next was tackling a communication issue within the transmitter. Downtime was not the problem—we rarely went off-air, but the inconvenience factor was

increasing. We were having problems with the HPAs losing communication with the rest of the transmitter, which resulted in the GUI showing that a tube was down although we were actually up-and-running.

SOLVING THE PROBLEM

Of course, mysterious problems become frustrating quickly and I am happy to say that Acrodyne's tech support was very responsive; everyone was determined to solve this problem. The communication troubles turned out to be an incompatibility with the PLC firmware and the monitoring units. Once the firmware was changed, we had a solid system.

The GUI lets us monitor and control all the systems and functions of the Quantum in an easy-to-read format. Since the GUI is Linux-based, the computer just runs and runs; it has been very reliable.

We were able to connect the transmitter computer directly to our station network and we added a second Linux machine in master control, so we were set. It is nice to look right at the transmitter and not have to worry about an added third-party link in the monitoring chain.

Another desirable feature is the flexibility of the Rohde & Schwarz SV700 exciter that came with the transmitter. First of all, setup and adjustments are very smooth. Undoing adjustments that go a little too far are a snap and the sys-



WBUW installed a four-cabined Acrodyne/Ai Quantum transmitter, the biggest that the company had built up to that point.

tem has the ability to save different setups for different applications.

I like the fact that if I have a major failure with an HPA cabinet, I can switch to the other pair. I then call up the exciter setting for that pair and I have no loss in picture quality.

Later this year we will have the daunting tasks of moving into a new transmitter facility, and we plan to change the SV700 exciter in our Rohde & Schwarz digital transmitter to run our analog signal until the move is complete. This move will also include the addition of a full-power Ai

Quantum DTV transmitter, which will result in us ultimately having a built-in spare exciter.

The Ai Quantum analog transmitter has worked well for WBUW and we appreciate the support that we get from the company. ■

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For more information, contact Ai/Acrodyne at 410-568-2105 or visit www.acrodyne.com.