

TV TECHNOLOGY

THE DIGITAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY

Serving the Broadcast, Cable, Production, Postproduction, Business and New Media Markets

REPRINTED FROM JUNE 27, 2007

WWW.TVTECHNOLOGY.COM

USER REPORT

Acrodyne Solves Problem at KASN-TV

by **Rusty Mooney**
Transmission Systems Support
Engineer
Clear Channel Television

PINE BLUFF, ARK.

When the former chief engineer of KASN-TV chose Acrodyne for the station's digital expansion, the decision initially met with some resistance. Clear Channel Television had not purchased Acrodyne products for any other station, and local engineers were required to justify their choice of vendors other than those with whom group purchasing agreements had been negotiated. Acrodyne was selected, based upon the company's advanced remote monitoring capability, which was inherent in the Quantum transmitter line.

A decision was made to replace the analog transmitter as well, since it was becoming increasingly more difficult to find parts. Also, the FCC had granted an n+1 digital allocation, requiring the locking of each exciter to an external reference—an option not available with the former transmitter's exciter.

With the combined antenna chosen for the project, we needed an analog transmitter capable of 92 kW output, and a digital transmitter capable of 19.1 kW output.

We also asked that Acrodyne develop an installation plan that would allow the station to remain on the air at reduced power while the work was being performed. The transmitters were installed in the existing building with the addition of a covered concrete slab for the heat

exchangers and beam power supplies. They were powered up and went on the air in 2002.

NO MORE 2 A.M. CALLS

Since that time, we have seen a remarkable increase in reliability over the former analog transmitter, and have been very pleased with the performance of both. Our transmitter supervisor will certainly agree with that statement, as the 2 a.m. phone calls he used to get several times a month are now history. Also monthly power bills for the site are lower than they were for the old analog transmitter, even with both new transmitters operating at full licensed power.

We have been extremely impressed with Acrodyne's commitment to quality and customer service. They are constantly working to improve upon an already impressive product line, and the Rohde & Schwarz exciters being used provide the best looking video I've seen from a UHF television transmitter.

The Linux-based monitoring and control system in the Quantum transmitter line was very appealing to us. When we first purchased the transmitter, the remote-control feature was something of a novelty. However, during the past couple of years, it has saved countless trips to the transmitter site.

When you factor in the savings in manpower and vehicle expenses, the remote control feature is a huge asset to our bottom line. In an industry with diminishing emphasis on RF skills, the ability to remotely troubleshoot a transmitter is becoming more and more important. Quantum allows us to monitor

many different parameters remotely, which was not possible with traditional parallel-interface systems.



The Acrodyne Quantum television transmitter

Every analog transmitter replacement that Clear Channel Television has undertaken since the KASN installation has been with an Acrodyne Quantum. The most recent was a depressed-collector transmitter installed in Mobile, Ala. We couldn't be more pleased with our decision to purchase the Quantum transmitters.

Rusty Mooney is the transmission systems support engineer for Clear Channel Television. He has worked in broadcast engineering since 1989, and has been employed by Clear Channel Television since 1991. He may be contacted at rustymooney@clearchannel.com

For additional information contact Acrodyne Industries Inc. at 610-917-1182 or visit www.Acrodyne.com.