

Nexans Provides Infrastructure for IMG Productions

New production studios and data centre complex

To move content between a vast array of different devices, and utilise the advantages of the high speed Ethernet platform, broadcasting companies everywhere are migrating from dedicated infrastructures to IT-based platforms. Of course, the rapid shift toward digital production, post-production, archiving and file transportation requires an appropriate infrastructure...

In September, 2013 IMG Studios began operating from its new Stockley Park premises. The new building houses IMG Productions, a division of sports, fashion and media, company IMG Worldwide, as well as IMG Studios, its facilities and post production arm. The new location houses four studios, 13 production galleries, 72 editing and four sound dubbing suites, five radio studios, five transmission suites plus a Master Control Room.



IMG is the world's largest independent sports programming producer. IMG Studios' clients include Premier League Productions 'PLP', European Tour Productions 'ETP', SNTV, UEFA Champions League Magazine Show, FIFA Football Mundial, BBC Football League Show, Trans World Sport, Origin Digital and Rightster. IMG Studios, which also has its own satellite farm, is set to play a major role in sports and entertainment content distribution, with direct connections to many of the UK's leading sports stadia

Purpose-built Data Centre

The equipment used to film, record, edit and manipulate programmes are now also almost exclusively within the digital domain, which brings many practical and economic advantages. Furthermore, storage security, content distribution, cloud agility and cost performance are all vital requirements for this sector.

IMGs new premises house one of the largest data centres built specifically for digital media and broadcast. This contains more than 160 racks, supported by various redundancy systems. The installation utilises Nexans LANmark-6A (Class E_A) copper cabling solutions plus LANmark-OF OM3 fibre backbones. Nexans solutions are used in both the structured cabling for the building network services as well as large parts of the broadcast distribution network. For the structured cabling solution, the data and voice circuits are distributed through the building from two sides of the Main Equipment Room (MER), patched through angled panels in open frames. Cables exit the MER through pre-terminated cable assemblies to under-floor Grid Outlet Point (GOP) boxes at desk locations.

In the case of the broadcast network, pre-built and configured racks are connected to the structured wiring via patch panels in the top of the cabinets, with cables exiting to high density cable runs in overhead containment. The broadcast coaxial cables and other ancillary circuits leave and connect to other cabinets by means of the raised floor distribution areas.



“Broadcast systems have really moved toward the use of structured cabling!” said Glynn Phillips, Infrastructure Specialist at Nexans. “In this project, multiple teams of engineers and different disciplines worked closely together to deliver the solution to the End User on time. This meant close liaison with the consultant (PTS), at the commencement and throughout the project. This was followed by regular contact and site visits, primarily with installation partners Redstone (Structured Cabling) and TSL (Broadcast Systems), until completion and site report. Feedback from the client has been very positive. The installation at IMG follows on from recent installations at Pinewood studios and ongoing work in mainstream Broadcasting organisations in the UK. We foresee continued growth and interesting developments in this sector.”