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DVEO Encoder Is Favorite at AT&T Center

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

The AT&T Center here is a state-of-the-art sports and entertainment facility with 18,500 seats. We host more than 200 events every year, including the San Antonio Spurs, the San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo, the San Antonio Silver Stars women's basketball team, the San Antonio Rampage hockey games and numerous concerts.

As director of audiovisual engineering for Spurs Sports and Entertainment, the parent company of AT&T Center, I'm responsible for every aspect of the center's cutting-edge A/V system, including production, television broadcast support and a total of 498 video monitors.

GOING HIGH DEFINITION

Last July, I contacted DVEO, the broadcast division of Computer Modules, Inc., to ask about equipment for putting live high-definition content into a channel on our house RF system.

DVEO recommended their NCoder HD, a high-definition MPEG-2 4:2:2 transport stream encoder. It compresses video from HD cameras in near real time, and encodes it to DVB-ASI. The product encodes HD in 1080i, 1080p or 720p.

Since we show fast-paced sports action, it's important that our video displays don't lag behind what's happening in the game. The NCoder HD meets this goal with very low latency—in the normal mode it's 120 ms, and there's a low-delay mode of 60 ms. Typically, encoder latencies can run 800 ms. The NCoder HD also offers IP output or even simultaneous DVB-ASI and IP output, but we use it here just for DVB-ASI.

The DVEO NCoder HD and other products

USES 8-VSB BLASTER

We've had the Ncoder HD in use here since August 2006, and have used it to encode live HD video for our in-house sports events. We use it with DVEO's 8-VSB Blaster, which allows me to modulate the MPEG stream onto the HDTV sets located in our skyboxes, concourse monitors, and other monitors at other locations within the venue.

I'm very happy with the performance and reliability of the NCoder HD. And I'm also impressed with the quality of our HD channel. What's more important is that I believe that the AT&T Center fans are, too.

Clinton Rathmell has been with Spurs Sports & Entertainment since 1991. He has more than 30 years of experience in broadcast engineering. He may be contacted at crathmell@attcenter.com.

For additional information contact Computer Modules at 858-613-1818 or visit www.dveo.com.

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