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Evertz helps enable real-time live sports production for DAZN in Japan

Evertz' DreamCatcher Live Production Solution deployed by Perform Group Japan

May 8, 2017 - Burlington, Canada - Evertz, the global leader in media and entertainment technology solutions, announces a successful DreamCatcher deployment with Perform Group Japan, working on their revolutionary live and on-demand sports streaming service, DAZN.

Based out of the United Kingdom, Perform Group is a leading digital sports content and media group that collects, produces, packages and distributes content for their B2B clients and fans across one digital platform. Last year, Perform launched its consumer-facing live and on-demand sports streaming platform, DAZN, in Japan, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. With a wide range of major global sports available as part of an affordable monthly subscription, fans can watch their favourite teams, leagues and players at home or on the go. In February, DAZN became the host broadcaster of Japan's domestic football league – J.League – a partnership that will last for ten years.

"The J-League Launch for DAZN was conducted under a tight deadline, however the flexible nature of DreamCatcher and the support provided by Evertz allowed the engineering team to quickly iterate workflows as production requirements were refined," said Robin Williams, Post Production Manager, Tokyo. "Since the launch, Evertz has worked hand in hand with Production and Engineering to add requested features and provide a more nuanced experience for DAZN which has reinforced our confidence in the system."

Evertz worked with its local partner Ideal Systems



Japan, an industry-leading multi-national systems integrator, to complete the DAZN installation which will handle the broadcasting of the J. League matches. Ideal Systems provided the system integration services to build the facility that included Evertz routing, conversion, and multiviewer infrastructure solutions. Evertz' DreamCatcher platform was also a key component of the solutions.

The DreamCatcher platform allows DAZN to create real-time highlight packages of the J. League matches.

DreamCatcher utilizes a workflow that is both intuitive and efficient for DAZN's operators. The IP-based workflow allows operators to quickly edit and package up to 20 games simultaneously across 10 operator stations.

"With an extremely modular interface, we could set a dedicated layout for each kind of usage, mainly clipping and editing. The editing tool is reliable and allows us to create extended edits with branding and user friendly workflows to follow," said Pierre-Eliott Roussel, Post Projects Engineer, UK. "In addition to that, the media gateway [DC-MG] module allows us to quickly transcode content and deliver it to third party solutions without extra pieces of development or transcoding."

One of the main requirements for the project was a need to edit and distribute live J. League content immediately following the completion of each match. Leveraging Evertz' non-linear editor DC-LIVE-EDIT, each operator can complete craft audio/video edits in-line on the original live record trains. By remaining in the live content DC-LIVE-EDIT software allows operators to distribute finished packages with zero render times.

"The DC Live Edit tool allowed us to streamline the editing process allowing us to seamlessly move from clipping to an editorial environment within the same system, this greatly improved time to delivery for the final product," said Robin Williams, Post Production Manager, Tokyo.

The DAZN DreamCatcher network provides full access to 20 live record trains from any of the five editing stations and five content creation stations. During games one operator clips, tags, archives and organize the incoming feeds while the second operator focuses on creating polished highlight packages for immediate distribution.



Outside live game times, operators are able to use DreamCatcher stations as craft editing stations with full access to archives and content from previous games. A powerful federated database and integrated search engine allows operators to quickly locate and organize content for editing.

"For the J league project, the DAZN Post Engineering team was tasked with the selection of a platform that met the production requirements, but which was also in line with the IP technology and workflow innovation strategy for our DAZN Internet TV service. However we did not have the luxury of a long test period to compare lots of systems," said Mike Edwards, Head of Post Engineering, Perform. "The Evertz UK team made the decision a lot easier for us, as we were able to spend several days at their UK office to pre-test all of our workflows on their DreamCatcher demo system. Once procurement of the system was agreed, we were able to return with members of the DAZN production team to modify and improve our workflows due to the application of the DC-LIVE EDIT software and Media Gateway system.

This meant that we were able to document our workflows prior to system installation at the DAZN Tokyo Facility."

"DAZN has been a fantastic partner for Evertz. We first collaborated last year on the deployment of a single DreamCatcher in Japan," said Nima Malekmanesh, DreamCatcher Product Marketing Manager and Senior Engineer. "I believe that initial exposure to DreamCatcher really showcased the benefits of our system. We also provided DreamCatcher Academy sessions to ensure their operators are effectively utilizing the advance features of DreamCatcher, like DC-LIVE-EDIT."



From left to right: Abraham Sinta, Media Manager – Perform Tokyo; Pierre-Eliot Roussel, Post Projects Engineer – Perform UK; Robin Williams, Post Production Engineering Manager – Perform Tokyo; Pierre-Yves Lebrun, Post Production Support Engineer – Perform Tokyo; Yusuke Matsui, Post Production Support Engineer – Perform Tokyo; Taro Helsby, Post Production Technical Assistant – Perform Tokyo

About DAZN

DAZN is a live and on-demand sports streaming service that allows fans to watch their sport, their way, live or on-demand. With access to the world's best sports, fans can watch their favourite teams, leagues and players anytime, anywhere, for an affordable monthly price. DAZN has over 8,000 live events a year and features the widest array of live sports ever offered on one TV service. DAZN has the ability to play, pause and rewind anytime with no commercial interruptions and no long-term commitments.

DAZN is available in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Japan on most connected devices including Smart TVs, smartphones, tablets and games consoles. DAZN is a part of Perform, a leading global sports media group. Visit http://media.dazn.com/en/ for more information.

About Perform Group

Perform is a leading digital sports content and media group. Our mission is to connect the world of sport by supplying some of the quickest, most detailed and most engaging content, managing a network of wholly-owned global media brands and delivering premium sports content directly to fans.

Our B2B brands do this by contributing to one of the world's most comprehensive sports content collections and distribution operations, servicing global customers in the broadcast, digital media and bookmaking industries. By investing in and developing our own media brands, we create destinations in which global advertisers and brands can engage with a huge worldwide audience of sports fans across all types of digital platform.

Visit http://www.performgroup.com/ for further information.

Perform Group is majority-owned by Access Industries, a privately-held US industrial group with global strategic investments in four key sectors: natural resources and chemicals; media and telecommunications; technology and e-commerce; and real estate. Access Industries was founded in 1986 by its Chairman, Len Blavatnik, a major American industrialist and philanthropist. For more information, visit www.accessindustries.com.

About Ideal Group

Ideal is Asia's largest broadcast systems integrator and is a multinational organization providing innovative media and design solutions to sectors including broadcasting, telecoms, and media. Ideal Systems provides services that range from systems consultancy and design conceptualization, to systems deployment and support of broadcast systems, facilities, and studios, to billing and subscriber-management solutions.

Ideal Group operates from 11 regional offices in nine countries across Asia. The company employs over 150 full time staff members in its offices in Hong Kong (main headquarters), China, Taiwan, India, Japan, Singapore (S.E.A. headquarters), Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Dubai. <u>www.idealsys.com</u>

About Evertz

Evertz Technologies Limited designs, manufactures and markets video and audio infrastructure solutions for the television, telecommunications and new-media industries. Evertz provides complete end-to-end solutions to content creators, broadcasters, specialty channels and television service providers to support their increasingly complex multi-channel digital and high definition television ("HDTV") and next generation high bandwidth low latency IP network environments and by telecommunications and new-media companies. Evertz' products allow its customers to generate additional revenue while reducing costs through the more efficient signal routing, distribution, monitoring and management of content as well as the automation of previously manual processes. For additional information, visit www.evertz.com