

News Release

Press enquiries

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Starfish builds archive system for TV4, Sweden

Following the successful completion of the Regional Commercials playout system designed for TV4, Starfish Technologies, working with Swedish reseller LanLink again, were commissioned by Swedish commercial broadcaster TV4 to supply an Archiving System that would record the station's output for internal reference, and for submission to the Swedish National Archive.

The solution delivered by Starfish involved custom development of their existing Immedia Media Management System. The Immedia database maintains details of encoders, servers and tasks, whilst driving encoders from Digital Rapids which record channel output in the chosen MPEG and Windows Media formats simultaneously. Full data redundancy is assured from signal supply to completion of the encode process.

The system architecture is expandable, with the initial implementation handling five channels of SDI with embedded audio. Broadcast signals reach a set of encoder stations, with dual ingest of each channel. Each encoder station is a self-contained unit, continuously encoding and storing the recorded media. The encoders function as completely stand-alone units, having received their encoding instructions from the server. This means that if the network fails, they will continue to encode media as instructed and store it locally for up to three days. Once connectivity is restored, files will be delivered as normal.

For easier management, archived material is segmented into hour-long files. Immedia analyses and compares the dual encoded files from each channel. Where discrepancies are detected, both files are flagged for manual review. If no discrepancies are detected, one file is deleted. The remaining file is retained by the broadcaster for internal reference and a copy is delivered to the national archives in accordance with Swedish law.

Additionally, system events (configurable) are written to an event log, from which warning messages can be generated and delivered via SMS or email.

Peter Lilja of LanLink said: "This is our second major project working with Starfish at TV4. This repeat business reveals continued trust in Lanlink and Starfish."

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About Starfish

Starfish Technologies Ltd is an established leader in the supply of Subtitling and Teletext solutions to the Broadcast TV industry. Starfish also supply a range of specialised technologies for this market including scheduling and compliance recording.

Starfish have developed a range of media management technologies and have a successful track record of media management project design and implementation.

Further product and press information can be obtained from the Starfish website www.startfish.tv