

# Riedel Names Roehrs As APAC Director

Riedel Communications has appointed Simon Roehrs as Director of the company's Asia-Pacific operations.

Based in Singapore, Roehrs brings a rich background in sales executive management from prominent media technology companies to his new role.

"In the past couple of years, Riedel has significantly increased its impact and investment in the APAC region. We have successfully built a regional framework to support our growing customer base served by our subsidiaries in Japan, China, Singapore, and Australia, and by our network partners. Simon is the perfect person to take the helm," said

Martin Berger, Chief Sales Officer at Riedel. "Not only does he bring deep technical industry expertise and regional knowledge to this important role, but he is a believer in industry standards and a highly influential speaker at major Asian conferences such as SMPTE Hong Kong, BIRTV, InterBEE, and Broadcast Asia. We look forward to working with Simon as we continue to expand Riedel's influence in Asia-Pacific."

Roehrs began his career at DVS GmbH, after the acquisition of DVS by Rohde & Schwarz, he later moved into a role as a solutions architect and service engineer based in Singapore, subsequently moving to Tokyo after



**Simon Roehrs, Director, APAC, Riedel**  
a promotion to regional manager for APAC.

Prior to joining Riedel, Roehrs served as APAC sales director for Lawo and as Japan cluster manager/regional director for Vizrt.

# Silver Trak Digital Establishes New Zealand Office

Going from strength to strength and as part of the company's continued expansion across the Asia Pacific region, Silver Trak Digital has established a new office in Auckland, New Zealand.

Silver Trak COO Christian Christiansen said: "As we were when we opened our offices in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Kuala Lumpur and to meet the unprecedented demand for our services, we are delighted that we are now able to offer to the full range of Silver Trak solutions to all customers across New Zealand from our Auckland office."

According to Christiansen the main services offered from the NZ office are digital cinema mastering and management including duplicating and distributing content via hard drives or IP delivery to NZ cinemas, working with DAMsmart to provide digitisation services and Media Room to provide advanced asset management services to the NZ market.

The NZ office will also be a hub for technical assessment QC for SD, HD and 4K SDR/HDR content, preparation and packaging services for OTT and broadcast, general broadcast services and a variety of audio services.

Silver Trak's New Zealand office may



**"Unprecedented demand,"  
Christian Christiansen**

be found at 3D Delta Avenue, New Lynn, Auckland, 0600, New Zealand, email christian@silvertrak.com.au or call +64 9 2828262.

Christiansen said an announcement about a general manager for the NZ office was expected soon.

# Mediacorp Initiative Reels In Viddsee Shorts

In a collaboration between Singapore's national media network Mediacorp and Singapore-based online entertainment platform Viddsee, audiences will get to enjoy more quality local entertainment under the 'Lights. Camera.Singapore' with Viddsee initiative.

From 25 July 2020, fans will be able to watch 16 Viddsee short films under the Scene City anthology by local content creators on Mediacorp's digital platform meWATCH (mewatch.sg/viddsee).

Shown as part of the Lights.Camera.Singapore initiative which champions cultural cornerstones, the Scene City

anthology present a glimpse into the rich and layered narratives, landscapes and vignettes of city life in Singapore.

These include award-winning works such as *Pa* directed by Sabrina Poon, which won Best Screenplay & People's Choice Award at the Shorties Film Festival Singapore 2019, and *Light By Bedside* directed by JD Chua, which clinched Best Web Film Shorts at the Asia Web Awards 2019.

A run of 13 of these short films will also be aired every Tuesday on Channel 5 from 28 July 2020.

Come end-2020 to early 2021, Mediacorp will also showcase popular drama series and infotainment

programmes from Viddsee, such as its 'VOICES' documentary series *While You Sleep* by Christine Seow, which won Best Documentary at the Asia Web Awards 2019.

As part of this collaboration, both companies will also explore commissioning a drama series based on a short film.



**A still from 'Pa' directed by Sabrina Poon**

# LiveU Supports Singapore Election Coverage

LiveU technology provided key live streaming support during Singapore's recent General Election 2020 in June that enabled Mediacorp, Singapore's largest content creator and national media network, to provide comprehensive live coverage from 31 constituencies across the country.



**"LiveU's high availability solutions guaranteed flawless transmission"**

Mediacorp used multiple field units to stream high-quality live video from Nomination Day events and the polling stations, coverage of candidates at their constituencies and results on Polling Day itself. Leveraging LiveU cloud technology, Mediacorp also used LiveU's platform for multi-destination distribution and disaster recovery. On the ground, management and support for the complex project was provided by LiveU's partner in Singapore, Elevate Broadcast. Elevate's role has been crucial, both in the run-up preparations and on Polling Day itself.

James Hollis, Lead, Production Services, News and Current Affairs Mediacorp, said: "This election was like no other, with social distancing paramount and additional measures to take into account when planning and providing coverage. LiveU's high availability solutions guaranteed flawless transmission around the clock from multiple locations, enabling us to cover the election extensively, while keeping to the strict safety measures. Using LiveU's cloud technology, we could also multistream the live broadcast footages to our YouTube and Digital platforms, bringing the live feeds to wider audiences, without needing large crews onsite."

LiveU worked with Mediacorp to rev up its operations for coverage of Singapore's National Day (August 9.)

LiveU's technology shared live feeds from across the island allowing Singapore citizens to enjoy the celebrations while maintaining social distancing and safety guidelines.

# Scene Change Chooses FUJINON UA107 4K Lenses

Scene Change is one of Australia's leading AV hire and production companies. They provide AV for events and conferences also operating in-house in a number of Australia's best venues. Recently the company had a requirement for new, high quality 4K lenses and for that they turned to FUJIFILM and chose the FUJINON UA107.

Scene Change Director John Dinh explained: "Most of our work is via event professionals who enjoy the quality, reliability and continuity we can deliver. We do video, audio, lighting, staging and other event technical services. That's our specialty and we focus on what we do really well so when we choose a piece of kit, especially a lens, it has to be the best available."

Scene Change's business is built around new technology, without having to fit in with legacy gear. By Dinh's own admission they, "choose only the very best equipment possible as the crew need the best kit to do their jobs

and because our professional clients demand that level of quality too."

He added: "We were starting to shoot in rooms where our standard lenses didn't have the zoom range, we were also working on shows where 77x box lenses were part of the technical spec and looking at pricing it made more business sense to futureproof and go with the FUJINON 107s. That lens also gave us a lot of flexibility with the focal length."

The UA107's flexibility was a key selling point for Dinh, amongst others, as he continued: "It not only gives us the flexibility on camera positions



The UA107's long zoom range is essential



FUJINON UA107 in use by Scene Change

and shots, but is a compact package that just works. We also needed to futureproof as at some stage we would move in to a 4K environment and the lens as everyone knows, the lens you use is one of the key components to the 4K chain."

Since acquiring the UA107s Dinh has had a great deal of positive feedback as he explained: "Clients love the image quality and the tightness of shot we can get with the UA107 lenses. Also some of the medical work that we do requires the highest level of clarity

and sharpness which the UA107 lens delivers flawlessly."

Scene Change typically use the UA107 lenses in a corporate environment where the camera position is usually at the back of the room.

Part of John Dinh's decision to buy the UA107s was the role of the team at FUJIFILM Australia played: "We've had a really good relationship with the team at FUJIFILM Australia and knew if we purchased the UA107s the service and support we would get would be excellent." ■

## VTV Launches Dedicated 4K Studio

As a national broadcaster, Vietnam Television (VTV) enjoys a lion's share of viewers with its seven national channels and two regional channels. VTV is readily available via digital terrestrial satellite and cable TV.

"VTV may have a government mandate to inform and educate but we are also here to provide our viewers with a wide range of programmes to cover our wide viewership base," Mr Nguyen Van Chung, Director of VTV-Technical and Production Centre explained.

With a population of over 96 million people, Vietnam has a TV penetration rate of over 85%.

Demonstrating its commitment to 4K, VTV built a dedicated studio exclusively for 4K productions at its HQ in the 2nd quarter of 2020. Called Studio 7, it is the first 4K TV studio for VTV and features an impressive array of Sony 4K solutions covering everything from 4K/HD/HDR camera systems to multi-format switchers to servers.

"Studio 7 marks an important milestone for VTV. It's our first 4K



VTV's OB van plays a vital role

studio and we had to make sure it was equipped with 4K solutions that will serve us well, now and in the future," Mr Chung added.

Taking centre stage at Studio 7 is the Sony HDC-3500 system camera. "The HDC-3500 impressed us with its picture quality and ease of use. It also features the world's first 2/3-inch 4K CMOS sensor with global shutter technology that eliminates the 'jello effect' and banding noise. The result is superb images with 4K high resolution, exceptionally low noise, impressive sensitivity and high dynamic range," said Mr Chung.

Complementing the HDC-3500 is the XVS-6000 multi-format server. This

highly versatile switcher gives VTV the added benefit of SDI and IP Live production support.

"Studio 7 comes at an opportune time. VTV is gearing up to produce more local 4K content especially dramas and entertainment shows," said Mr Chung.

Besides ramping up its 4K production capabilities VTV also used the opportunity to upgrade its HD equipment.

"While 4K is important to VTV we also do want to compromise on our HD productions. The new Sony equipment we've invested in will be used for our HD studios as well as our OB vans," Mr



Studio 7, VTV's first fully dedicated 4K studio

Chung highlighted.

The latest HD acquisitions include the HDC-3100 system camera, the 'Point-of-View' HDCP1 camera as well as the MVS-6530 production switcher.

VTV is a long-time user of Sony equipment and the new purchases reaffirm VTV's trust in Sony's performance and quality.

"Sony has been our strong partner from day one and has seen VTV grow. We are confident our Sony-equipped Studio 7 will help VTV achieve new milestones," Mr Chung concluded. ■

# Comtech Secures US\$1.5M In Orders

Comtech Telecommunications recently announced that during its fourth quarter of fiscal 2020, Comtech's Government Solutions segment, was awarded in excess of US\$1.5 million in new orders by an international space and communications customer.

The orders consolidate requirements for high reliability electrical, electronic and electromechanical (EEE) parts and engineering services in support of several Japanese spacecraft missions, two of which are the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) and Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT-3).

"These awards further illustrate that

our customers continue to recognize the unique value of Comtech's space level electronic parts supply chain management and engineering services expertise in their most important satellite programs," said Fred Kornberg, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Comtech Telecommunications Corp.

Comtech's Space & Component Technology (SCT) division, which is part of Comtech's Government Solutions segment and which is located in Cypress, California, specialises in the supply of high reliability microelectronics, supplying EEE parts for use in satellite, launch vehicle and



**Fred Kornberg, Chair and CEO of Comtech Telecommunications**

manned space applications. Combining longstanding resources in Cypress, Texas and Hampshire, UK, SCT also provides services encompassing all aspects of ground station life cycle management. A full line of XY satellite tracking antennas from 30cm to 13m, as well as RF feeds, radomes and carbon fibre reflectors, all for LEO, MEO and GEO orbits are also supplied to customers worldwide.

# Gilat Selected to Extend and Expand Managed Service Cellular Backhaul Project

Gilat Satellite Networks has announced that Gilat received an extension for an 18-month managed service cellular backhaul project from a leading Mobile Network Operator in Mexico.

"We are pleased to strengthen our relationship with our partner and to continue to provide quality end-to-end service and high performance with our leading technology, providing excellent spectral efficiency," said Tobias Dezordi, Regional Vice President Latin America at Gilat.

"This project is a testament not only to Gilat's ongoing technological

leadership but also to Gilat's local presence and expertise in delivering a highly reliable service, meeting rigorous SLAs, that has led our partner to provide an 18-month extension to the managed service contract."

The Mobile Network Operator will provide 3G and 4G services over Gilat's satellite backhaul to remote regions where terrestrial means such as fibre and microwave are not available.

In addition, Gilat's satellite platform

**3G and 4G services over Gilat's satellite backhaul**



will allow the mobile operator to use transportable VSATs, for disaster recovery, thus ensuring connectivity anywhere in Mexico at all times.

The capacity increase of 40% will enable Gilat to provide a superior end-to-end solution for the operator to expand its service into remote villages cost-effectively.

# SES And Harmonic Partner For Transition Of C-Band Spectrum To Enable 5G

Harmonic has announced that it will partner with SES for technology upgrades associated with the SES transition plan filed with the Federal Communications Commission on June 19, 2020.

SES and Harmonic will work together to fast-track this deployment, freeing up spectrum for 5G while simultaneously enabling SES's C-band customers to maintain the quality and resilience of their critical video services.

"We are proud to support SES, its customers and the communications

industry in enabling the transformation of C-band spectrum for 5G," said Jeremy Rosenberg, Senior Vice President, Business Development at Harmonic. "Our software-based solutions set the standard for flexibility by enabling these traditional satellite delivery networks to deliver solutions with industry-leading bandwidth efficiency."

This network transformation is based on Harmonic's powerful software solutions for satellite video delivery.

SES and Harmonic will work jointly to deploy Harmonic's XOS advanced

media processing in the headend and XOS Edge transcoding solutions in remote sites for primary distribution of video feeds. The XOS solutions are based on Harmonic's widely deployed streaming platform, bringing unique OTT capabilities to satellite delivery.

Harmonic is a worldwide leader in virtualised cable access and video delivery solutions.

The technology enables media companies and service providers to deliver ultra-high-quality video streaming and broadcast services to consumers globally.

# Etisalat Cloud OTT Service On Synamedia's Infinite



UAE's largest operator, Etisalat, has launched SwitchTV, a new direct-to-consumer (D2C) service based on Synamedia's Infinite cloud TV platform and its end-to-end video network portfolio.

Etisalat, a leading telecommunication operator in emerging markets, chose to work with Synamedia because its technologies provide the flexibility, security and agility needed to support, monetise and scale a multi-screen service with both free and premium live TV channels, catch-up and on-demand. Of particular importance is Synamedia's private CDN, allowing Etisalat to leverage its infrastructure and private cloud solutions to deliver content to large audiences.

With Infinite, Etisalat can process, secure, distribute and monetise video to all consumer devices. Benefits include the flexibility to offer a choice of SwitchTV subscription packages and different movie rental models.

Users can also enjoy a personalised viewing experience, making it easy to find their favourite content and deepening their engagement. With Synamedia's cloud DVR solution, viewers can record programmes in the cloud and watch them on any of their devices. Synamedia also supports Etisalat's multi-language requirements with channels offering Arabic, Western and Asian content.

In addition, Etisalat is deploying Synamedia's end-to-end video network to reduce latency at every stage of the video workflow - from encoding through to the CDN and player - while also minimising bandwidth requirements.

This ensures that SwitchTV gives viewers a highly reliable, consistently high-quality viewing experience with no interruptions or buffering.

Infinite is pre-integrated with Evergent's market-leading global revenue and customer lifecycle management platform.

# SES Delivers Video Services For BBC Studios

**B**BC Studios (BBCS) and its subsidiary UKTV have selected SES to manage the playout and distribution of over 50 linear channels and their associated video on demand (VOD) services, SES has announced.

SES will provide playout, content processing, distribution, and VOD services, delivering BBCS and UKTV content to a network of affiliates globally and in the UK. These services will be based on SES's European global delivery services with technical playout infrastructure provided from SES's new Stockley Park facility in London and with SES's Munich playout facility overseeing operational management.

"We are truly excited to be delivering a complete set of video services to BBCS," said Steve Collar, CEO of SES. "Our London and Munich service delivery approach is specially crafted so that broadcasters and production houses



Steve Collar, SES CEO

like BBCS and UKTV can focus on producing great content while we take care of the content preparation, playout, and delivery. This dual-facility approach is fundamental to our success in ensuring that we have always-on, fully backed-up content delivery services and will enable us to provide the highest quality of service for BBCS."

BBCS is the commercial production and distribution arm of the BBC, crafting over 2,500 hours of content every year.

BBCS is focused on promoting the creative talent of the BBC and the UK internationally and operates a global content distribution and branded services business.

UKTV is a wholly owned subsidiary of BBCS. It has been at the forefront of UK branded television for over 25 years and its channels span comedy,



entertainment, natural history, factual, and drama. The broadcaster is a significant investor in British creativity and is committed to working with new and established writers, directors, and programme-makers.

"Our UK and global audiences and advertisers expect seamlessly delivered high-quality services, and in the transforming world of broadcast we need flexibility and responsiveness to meet ever-changing audience demands. By selecting SES, we believe we have found a partner that is

committed to delivering innovation and can meet our business needs going into the future," said Marcus Arthur, President UK, Ireland BBC Studios and CEO, UKTV.

SES has been awarded the multi-year contract after responding to a BBCS and UKTV RFP where its service offering aligned with the BBCS and UKTV performance, business, and commercial requirements.

The new deal also builds on BBCS and UKTV's desire for cloud innovation in the media industry. ■

# Paradigm's HORNETKu Approved On Maverick

**P**aradigm has announced that their tough, portable and compact HORNETKu VSAT is now approved and fully qualified for use on the Network Innovations Group's MAVERICK VSAT service.

NIC4, the U.S. Government focused subsidiary of Network Innovations has successfully introduced the HORNET Ku VSAT into their customer base as a fully-integrated MAVERICK flyaway system with embedded modem for ease of transport and use.

The fully scalable MAVERICK VSAT service provides efficient and flexible services to VSATs, running on multiple satellites and supporting different frequencies and path beams.

This network is ideally suited to the Paradigm HORNETKu, Paradigm's rugged portable PIM (Paradigm Interface Module) -based VSAT terminal. The field proven HORNETKu provides a single satcom solution for many different operational requirements. The HORNETKu is environmentally rugged, yet still

lightweight and crucially, even the largest 100cm variant can be packed into a single airline-friendly case.

Jon Godfrey, General Manager at Paradigm commented: "The HORNET is easy-to use and extremely portable, now on MAVERICK, its high throughput capabilities are available in the remotest locations on affordable and flexible plans."

The HORNETKu integrates the easy-to-use and field-proven PIM, which allows any non-skilled user to point the antenna in just a few minutes.

The PIM controller provides the modem, baseband switching, assisted pointing and setup functions for the HORNET and comes with a built-in visual crosshair and audio pointing device. As well as making pointing straightforward for any user, the PIM supports Power over Ethernet devices and provides a multitude of services to the end user - from VLAN setup and



management to smart auto-selecting of AC and DC power interfaces.

Chad Gatlin, CEO at NIC4 commented: "NIC4 is excited to incorporate this fully integrated terminal into the MAVERICK network. The combination of the HORNET's SWAP and ease of use are an ideal complement to the flexibility and exceptional reliability MAVERICK offers to meet the stringent demands of our U.S. Government customer base."

MAVERICK provides flexibility of service, bandwidth on demand

and state of the art coding and modulation to ensure customers enjoy the benefits of increased link stability. With true dynamic bandwidth allocation, MAVERICK services can be shared across fleets of HORNETKu terminals, adding and deploying to new sites as needed.

Paradigm has been making satcom simple since 1996, working closely with customers to completely understand the challenges and complexities they can face when using satcom in the field.

This knowledge is then used to improve, advance and sometimes completely redesign the technology, utilising Paradigm's high levels of engineering excellence to produce state-of-the-art solutions which really make a difference.

As a privately-owned, global enterprise, Paradigm is able to respond quickly to customers' specific needs and feedback, providing clear sighted solutions that are reliable, optimal and innovative. ■