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*Robert Davies, PMO Manager,
Broadcast Services*

BSkyB

On time delivery of Sky Studios

Overview

British Sky Broadcasting Group (commonly known as BSkyB) is a British satellite broadcasting, broadband and telephony services company headquartered in London, with operations in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Formed in 1990 by the equal merger of Sky Television and British Satellite Broadcasting, BSkyB is the largest pay-TV broadcaster in the United Kingdom and Ireland with over 10.6 million customers.

Challenge

In Sept 2008 BSkyB needed to deliver, efficiently, effectively and on time, [Sky Studios](#). This was a sophisticated new broadcast studio facility with the Technical Fit-out designed in collaboration with Sony.

The Studios, which began broadcasting in July 2011, are set over three floors designed for studio work and post production. It involved complex designs and a sophisticated technical layout, which needed to be fully operational to deliver end-to-end broadcasting within a three year time period.

Robert Davies, PMO Manager, Broadcast Services commented: “There was a requirement to have a flexible and usable solution in place to ensure the delivery deadline was met.”

Solution

With more than two hundred people involved in this complex, Projectplace, the online collaboration solution, was selected to assist with the smooth running of the project, specifically to help BSkyB and Sony engage efficiently on the Technical Fit-out programme. Projectplace was used by both companies to share and update crucial design documents securely and cost-effectively.

This involved Designers, Project Managers, external Service Integrators, Broadcast & Network Engineers and Senior Management.



Benefits

BSkyB predominantly uses, and sees the most benefit out of, Projectplace's document review and management tool according to the Broadcast Services Projects team. The online collaboration tool allowed multiple teams working on the Sky Studios project to store documents in a central location and access them securely via any web-enabled computer.

Projectplace's speed, ease of use and clear transparency were major benefits in making the project successful. Using Projectplace, BSkyB not only had much more control over version management, but it also helped them to manage changes on the estate.

Since the introduction of Projectplace two years ago the tool has now been used for all significant programmes including [Formula 1](#), the dedicated racing channel. Projectplace was introduced for this project to ensure effective document control and sign-off in time for the channel's launch in March 2012. The tool was used for document control and sign-off, particularly by the design technicians who constantly had to update a range of documents.

Throughout BSkyB's time working with Projectplace, the customer service has been acknowledged as consistently proactive. Response rate is very quick and Projectplace will set up 'live meetings' to assist with any technical issues at any time.

Robert Davies, PMO Manager, Broadcast Services commented:

"The product's ease of use goes hand in hand with relaxed friendly approach from the management at Projectplace."

