

Michigan State University's WKAR goes "LIVE" with a full ATSC 3.0 solution from Hitachi Kokusai Electric Comark

SOUTHWICK, MA, October 10, 2018 – Hitachi Kokusai Electric Comark LLC (hereinafter "COMARK"), a manufacturer and supplier of DTV transmitters, encoding systems, and associated field services for over 45 years, has announced that Michigan State University (MSU) PBS member station WKAR is "on-the-air" with a fully integrated ATSC 3.0 solution from COMARK.

In late 2017, WKAR ordered a 20kW PARALLAX® UHF transmitter system on channel D33 to replace their existing and aging DTV transmitter. WKAR's PARALLAX transmitter was configured as a main-standby in 1+1 redundancy. The transmitter was installed at the end of May, 2018.

WKAR is the country's first PBS station to receive authorization from the FCC to begin broadcasting ATSC 3.0 and time-to-market was crucial. In July of 2018, WKAR ordered a turnkey ATSC 3.0 solution, integrated by Comark Digital Services (CDS). The system was fully delivered and on-air on their September 1st deadline.

CDS provided a fully integrated "IP enabled" workflow of ATSC 3.0 equipment. The solution includes the "CDS powered by TitanLive" software based ATSC encoding solution configured with 4 HEVC encoded video services. The solution also includes a Broadcast Gateway / Scheduler, which was configured to provide 3 Physical Layer Pipes (PLP's) that carry the various services. The system was designed to be compatible with WKAR's existing ROUTE/MMTP server. CDS provided equipment integration, service level agreement, on-site installation, and training services to the WKAR staff.

All PARALLAX DTV transmitters are ATSC 3.0 ready, and only require an ATSC 3.0 license update for the EXACT-V2 DTV exciter(s). However, MSU project requirements included splitting the 1+1 transmitter configuration to create 2 separate 20kW systems. One half of the TX system remains on ATSC 1.0 on channel D33 while the other half of the TX system needed to independently support the ATSC 3.0 system on channel D35, including a new RF mask filter system.

"Having already provided ATSC 3.0 equipment to Dish Networks, the OneMedia Dallas SFN, and the Cleveland field trial, CDS has been positioned just for these types of projects," says Dick Fiore, President and CEO of Hitachi Kokusai Electric Comark, LLC. "Our team worked very closely with the staff at WKAR to provide the right solution and we are extremely pleased to be part of this very important milestone in the transition to NGBT."

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About Hitachi Kokusai Electric Comark LLC:

For over 45 years COMARK has been synonymous with broadcast expertise and innovation. A trusted partner to the world's leading broadcasters, COMARK has pioneered many developments that have shaped the industry, leading innovation in IOT & MSDC-IOT technology, transistorized solid-state technology, Digital Adaptive Pre-correction (DAP), and also winning multiple Emmy® Awards; and gaining numerous patents in technologies that have become fundamental to broadcasting. COMARK is now building on this great heritage with the release of an entirely new range of transmission products for terrestrial television broadcasting, and state-of-the-art products for scientific/industrial RF applications. With thousands of active COMARK transmission systems deployed worldwide and a global support presence, COMARK plans to continue to develop technologies for the future, with efficient performance initiatives that improve coverage and save power.

***Look for Hitachi Kokusai Electric Comark LLC at
NABNY 2018, booth # N253.***

Information about products from Hitachi-Comark
is available at www.comarktv.com.

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