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ATG DANMON UK

## High-definition upgrade at Television Centre Studio Six, London

ATG Danmon is one of the world's most successful providers of high-end reliable and easy-to-operate integrated systems for broadcasters and programme makers.

Active in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, ATG Danmon is part of the Dan Technologies Group which operates from offices in the United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

*Studio Six control room from right*



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ATG Danmon, working in partnership with BBC Studios and Post Production, has completed a major upgrade to Studio Six at Television Centre in London. Studio Six becomes Britain's first 1080 50p HD studio and the fourth permanent HD studio at Television Centre.

"The Studio Six upgrade encompassed the detailed design, delivery and commissioning of production control, lighting and vision control areas plus vision apparatus area," details ATG Danmon Projects Manager Dave Whitaker. "It also included the installation of dual link 1.5 gigabit/s and single link 3 gigabit/s HD video infrastructure. A key difference between TC6 and the three existing 1080 50i HD studios is the inclusion of a Sony dual-link HD vision mixer which will take optical fibre feeds from eight Sony HDC 1500 cameras.

"We have also provided infrastructure for 12 VTR positions capable of operation in dual-link mode. Crystal Vision signal converters and other glue equipment have been installed. Technical furniture is from Custom Consoles, including a production-control desk and monitor stack plus the vision control section of

the vision and lighting control desk.

The production control monitor stack incorporates LCD panels with 24 inch 3D camera previews, 42 inch 3G transmission and preview monitors."

A crucial element of the Studio Six contract was the need to complete the entire system within a five week period which was very tight for such a large project. Operating flexibly and in two shifts, the ATG Danmon engineering team was able to perform all the required installation, testing and commissioning during the relatively quiet month of August. The completed upgrade went fully to plan and became operational on September 6.

With the completion of this refurbishment, BBC Studios and Post Production now has four fully integrated HD studios at Television Centre. It can also deliver HD from all other studios using HD flyaway equipment, including a vision mixer, up and down conversion equipment, monitoring and a bespoke transportable bay which acts as the heart of

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Studio Six control room from left

any temporary upgrades.

“We work with a range of media and production companies, making programmes for all broadcasters, including Sky, ITV, Channel 4, Five and the BBC,” comments Craig White, BBC Studios and Post Production Head of New Business and Entertainment.

“With BBC One HD launching this autumn [2010] and ITV HD now fully up and running, customer demand for HD production facilities is increasing. The investment in 1080 50p enables the studio to handle all current HD broadcast formats. It also future-proofs our

offering at a time when broadcast technology is progressing in many directions.”

Studio Six came into service in 1968 as the BBC’s first large colour studio. In 1993 it became one of the world’s first studios to be equipped as a fully digital facility, providing a solid foundation for subsequent developments including the transition to widescreen 625-line standard-definition in 1999 and more recently to 1080-line high-definition production.

Studio Six is operated by BBC Studios and Post Production, a wholly-owned commercial subsidiary of the BBC.

