

Channels-in-a-Box



Based upon a wealth of experience stretching back to the very dawn of Broadcast Automation, Avocet now pushes the boundary of Channel-in-a-box technology with a true multi-channel solution of exceptional versatility and cost effectiveness.

Having worked with mainstream broadcasters for many years, the design of Avocet's Channel-in-a-box system capitalises on the wealth of experience gained in this market sector. In addition to now incorporating the major elements of the broadcast chain within a single box, Avocet still retains its ability to control and integrate with a plethora of traditional third party broadcast equipment such as high-end presentation mixers, servers, VTRs and legacy equipment, for example Sony's Flexicart and LMS.



Customisation and Support

We have extensive experience of helping customers to realise their special requirements in an industry that so often calls for individuality and distinctiveness. Unlike other Channel-in-a-box suppliers we actively welcome opportunities to become involved with extensively customised solutions.

Our after sales support service offers excellent response times for day to day enquiries and problem solving. The lifespan of our products is exemplary and throughout this extended period supported customers will always enjoy our full commitment to keep their systems in line with the many changes that are inevitable in this fast moving industry.

Key Features

Reliability and Performance

– Non-proprietary hardware platform with dual hot-swap PSU and RAID disk storage. Main and hot standby configurations for complete redundancy with standby system mirroring all main system activity. Dual Xeon processors 16 core or upwards, solid state drive options.

Scalability – From single channel SD to multi-channel HD with a range of local storage capacities and the ability to integrate with third party centralised storage systems.

True Multi-channel – Configurable user interfaces designed specifically for large multi-channel environments, optionally allowing the distribution of tasks to specialist work areas, ingest stations, media preparation, back office and engineering.

AB Mixing, Keying, DVE and Flash Animations – For all of today's sophisticated channel branding requirements including tickers, menus and straps with thumbnails and preview clips for upcoming items. With full support for industry standard graphics packages; giving your designers the flexibility they need to create the look and feel you want.

Multiviewer – A fully integrated Multiviewer maintained on a separate HDMI output, customer configurable, showing not only SDI inputs and channel outputs but also playlist summaries, clocks, system alerts and even customer specific web pages.

Routing – Control of internal and/or external routers to front end the AB mixer and to source inputs for the integrated Multiviewer. Channel outputs are maintained for 'cuts-only' channels and emergency clean feeds exist to protect against mixing and branding problems.

Playlist Management – Interfacing to traffic management systems for playlist download and upload of transmission history data, as well as our own comprehensive local capability for playlist preparation and maintenance.

Viewer Interaction – Extensive support for social media interaction, Twitter engagement, viewer chat straps and viewer voting.

Ingest – HD or SD ingest including 16 channel audio via a wide range of industry standard codecs, from live source, tape or file-based media to local and/or third party external storage. Simultaneous creation of low-res proxies. Import of record lists and export of job status from/to third party MAM systems.

Media Maintenance – Complementing the ingest operation, a wide variety of quality control and media maintenance tools exist to create and enrich media metadata; locator defining tools for multi-part programmes, thumbnails and preview sections, creation of virtual clips and captioning.

iPhone and iPad Support – A growing family of apps allowing secure remote interaction, for example alarms sent to engineers' phones, remote triggering of main/standby changeovers, countdowns and running order summaries and remotely initiated playlist modifications.

External Device Control – A vast software library built up over many years allows us to extend our capabilities beyond the confines of Channel-in-a-box technology to integrate with traditional broadcast equipment including legacy equipment like Sony's Flexicart.

Opt-out Capabilities – Our system can exist as a provider of core channels or opt-out services for regional variations, where both can be sourced from the same 'box' or distributed across multiple remote systems.

News and Sport – Most of our installed systems are employed in these environments where rapid responsiveness to changing scenarios is paramount. We have specialist solutions to sport-specific requirements, for example last minute break insertion during live cricket coverage.

Live Shows – The responsiveness of the system developed for News and Sport is equally applicable when pre-recorded sequences are called for on-the-fly during live shows.

Late Selling of Commercials – Last minute changes can be accepted from Air Time Sales systems to cope with late selling and commercial airtime auctioning.