



Case Study

Project	Inmarsat
Installer	Netpractise
Product	SNX-16x16
Location	London, UK



When systems integrator Netpractise needed a solution for a unique installation at mobile satellite communications company Inmarsat, they contacted Smart-e.

Smart-e accredited installation partners and systems integrator, Netpractise, chose Smart-e AV distribution equipment for the Flight Operations and Flight Dynamics control rooms at Inmarsat's London site.

Inmarsat is the pioneer of global mobile satellite communications and stands at the forefront of 3G wireless telephony. The company has almost a quarter of a century's experience in delivering broadband communications solutions to enterprise, maritime and aeronautical users around the globe.

The challenge

Inmarsat's flight operations and flight dynamics teams are responsible for the launching and orbiting of their satellite fleet, with a large team of operators working in unison, across two floors of the building. The ability for operators to view their colleagues' monitor-data 'live; and 'on demand' became a fundamental requirement for the successful operation of the launch process.



Wai Ki Cheng, from Inmarsat's Systems Support was tasked to find the solution. Initial investigations into software and network-video solutions, proved expensive, intrusive on bandwidth and incompatible with multi-platform systems such as Sun Solaris and dual-head displays, so Wai contacted Netpractise for the answer.

The solution

Netpractise consultants held a series of meetings and site assessments with Inmarsat's Flight Dynamics and Operations team to discuss their requirements and develop the best-value solution. Netpractise proposed the deployment of the Smart-e SmartNet-X+ 16-port multimedia switch, enabling up to 16 Inmarsat personnel to switch between up to 16 remote 'source inputs' (in this case being various operator-workstations and services in the Flight Operations and Flight Dynamics control rooms).

The SmartNetX+ multimedia switch is capable of handling UXGA, SXGA, XGA, RGB+syncs, YUV, Y/C S-video and composite video formats, as well as stereo audio. In addition, the switch allows 'pass through' of both infrared and serial (RS232) commands. The switch utilises Inmarsat's Category 6 UTP structured cabling infrastructure to distribute the audio video signals and, as the signals remain analogue, there is no impact upon Inmarsat's network bandwidth.

Netpractise installed the switch within the Flight Operations central communications room. The workstations were fitted with dual video input and output adaptors, as required.



YXGA+ stereo transmitter/receiver pairs were then utilised to take the VGA-video feeds from the 'input source' workstations and servers, back into the switch across 80-meters of CAT 6 UTP structured cabling.

The operator-workstations and three plasma screens were then connected back to the switch 'outputs' by installing dual-screen UXGA+ stereo receivers and patching back across the CAT 6 UTP structured cabling.

The result

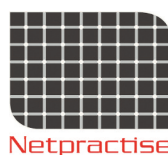
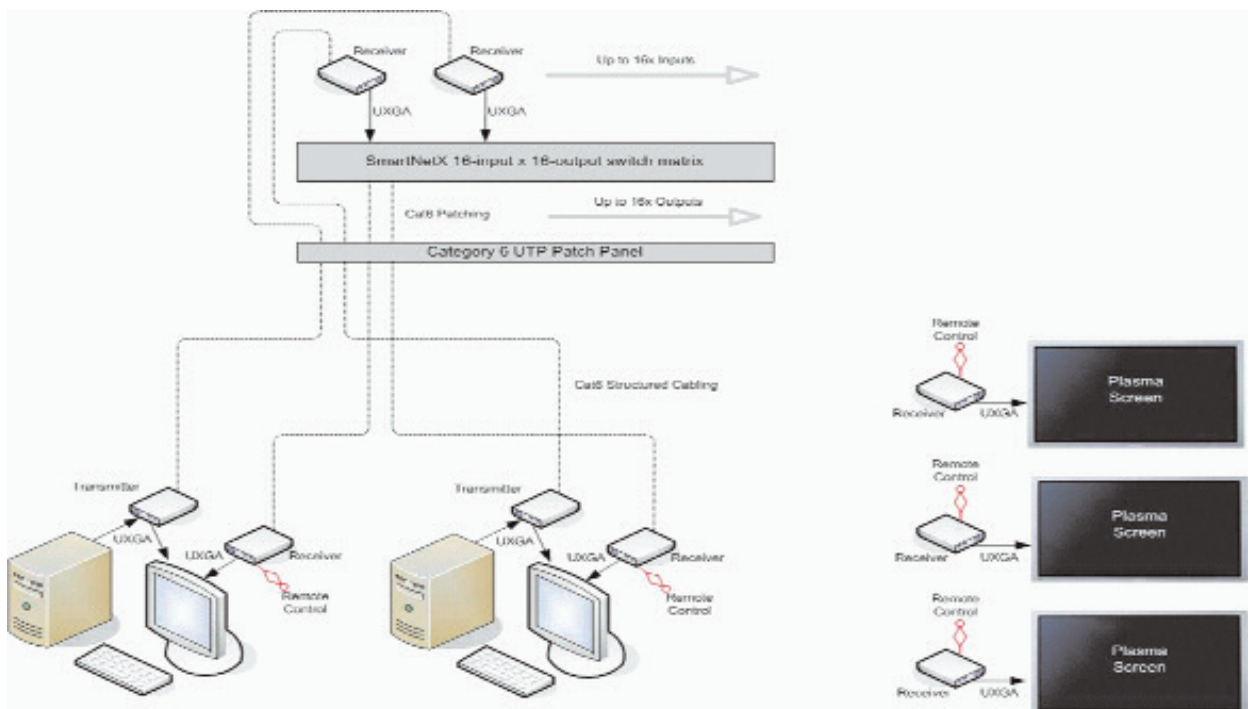
Using an infrared remote control handset, Inmarsat's Flight Operations and Flight Dynamics operators can now simply select which of their colleagues' desktop monitors they want to view from their own desktop monitor. The video signals can also be sent to any of the three plasma screens.

The system can also be utilised to deliver video footage of the launch via a standard satellite TV decoder. In addition, the system can be simply and effectively expanded, as required up to a phenomenal 64-input x 64-output switch matrix!

A Solution for You?

Here at Smart-e we are committed to providing functional solutions to broadcasting high quality audio and video. With a product range covering extending, splitting and switching of all types of video, graphics and true stereo audio simply and effectively over Cat5/6/7/8 UTP cabling. To view the Smart-e range of products check out our website at www.smart-e.co.uk. Alternatively just give us a call for all product and pricing information.

Below is a schematic representation of the solution considered within this case study. To protect our client's security, it does not represent a detailed schematic drawing of the actual installation



For more information contact Netpractise at email address:
info@netpractise.com

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+44 (0) 1483 283365 / www.smart-e.co.uk