



Germany's MCI Relies on Telestream PRISM Waveform Monitor

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**– Benjamin Bolinius,
Solution Engineer at MCI**



Studio Hamburg MCI (Media Consult International) is a full-service provider for IT-based media systems with over 40 years of experience in the market. Part of the Studio Hamburg Group, one of the biggest production companies in Germany, MCI provides sophisticated solutions for global media projects. They provide everything from broadcast to audiovisual equipment, both for stationary or OB mobile trucks with both SDI and IP infrastructures. MCI equips over 15 studios for Studio Hamburg and develops solutions for demanding production requirements as a professional systems integrator across Europe.

Quality is at the center of everything MCI provides and as the industry migrates from SDI to IP video, having the reliable tools to serve both types of infrastructure has been paramount. MCI started testing IP workflows in their lab back in 2018 and needed a waveform monitor to show signal timing and alignment. They choose the Telestream PRISM waveform monitor to train staff and demonstrate to customers during the IP evolution and to educate everyone on the SMPTE 2110 standard. Since then, they have purchased several PRISM systems for use in their lab and have also sold them or rented them to numerous productions.

"Unlike other systems we had tried, the PRISM systems didn't require an extra monitor, keyboard and touchpad," said Fabian Röttcher, Solutions Architect at MCI. "The best feature of all is the complete flexibility you have. You can have one base unit and decide what you need it to be, SDI or IP depending on the production's needs. From 3G SDI, quad-link to 12G SDI or up to 25Gig IP SMPTE 2110, it's the only tool we need."



The team at MCI also appreciate the ability to upgrade and update the PRISM system with simple software installations. Able to be done in the field, there's never any need to ship a unit back for an upgrade. MCI was also one of the first to use the eye display for setting up 12G SDI systems when they purchased the PRISM MPS 300. The eye display provides a measurement of the SDI physical layer for timing and alignment with automated measurements.

"As a technical measurement instrument for either SDI or SMPTE 2110 installation it's invaluable. For IP workflows, you can see if all devices are properly implemented, if the streams are working properly, and display a PTP analysis over time," says Röttcher. "The size of the PRISM MPS and MPD series are amazingly small, yet they have very large displays. Together with the battery option, this allows you to have a truly compact and portable system that handles IP or SDI measurement. We can easily send these units anywhere."

MCI says that training of staff and clients has been simple because of the touchscreen, custom configurations, and ease of use. One of the most popular features is the ability to remotely connect to the PRISM system using a tablet or computer from any location with network connectivity. This allows users to access the full feature set as well as monitoring the signal remotely.

"With the remote feature we can easily do system integration from a home office. Recently, we were adjusting configurations on a video router. We had the router output going into the input of the PRISM so we could see if the switching worked properly. So, it's a remote video monitor as well," says Benjamin Bolinius, Solution Engineer at MCI.

"We've also used this technique with other manufacturer's equipment who were not able to come out due to COVID restrictions. We could show them remotely via PRISM if their devices had problems. Because everyone trusts the PRISM brand, so there's never any argument about where the bug is that needs to be fixed."

The remote feature also allows MCI to diagnose and troubleshoot issues for their clients without sending out a tech. These kinds of cost savings have been very important, and with pandemic restrictions on travel, the remote feature has been particularly valuable to the team.

Another plus for MCI is the large touchscreen when looking at tables of detailed information on IP Status or PTP timing. *"When it comes to viewing statistics or a table of data you can't really see that on a five- or even seven-inch screen. The nine-inch screen on the PRISMs makes even dense displays readable. This is a big difference for a system that still retains its portability."*

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To get more information about products and services mentioned, see:

- <https://www.telestream.net/video/prism.htm>

