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USER REPORT

s2one Smooths Salt Lake City Stations' Switch

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SALT LAKE CITY

KUED-DT and KULC-DT are noncommercial educational licensees in Salt Lake City, co-managed by the University of Utah. Like the rest of you, these stations were faced with the daunting task of putting DTV stations on the air in time to meet the federal mandates.

With the limited staffing one might expect in a state-run organization during tight economic times, the stations had to look outside existing staff to install its DTV transmitters.

Another reason to look for outside help was the need for precision in the installation interface. Both KUED and KULC are members of DTV Utah, an eight-station transmission cooperative feeding a combined antenna. This meant that any interface to the common combiner would have to be as impedance-matched and error-free as possible to avoid affecting the other members.

The stations' first association with s2one was strictly by chance. KUED contracted with Harris for the purchase and installation of a Diamond solid-state transmitter. Harris' own capable staff was already booked and s2one was filling in for some of the overflow—a fortunate circumstance for KUED.

Mark Hills, s2one owner/engineer, personally took control of the project, and (here's where the karma comes in) it turns out that Mark was an electrical engineer formerly

employed by Harris. He is a member of the core design team for the Diamond transmitter, and he was the project engineer for the DD1 driver. Mark knew this transmitter inside and out!

s2one jumped in and got right to work. Aside from the initial construction of the transmitter, one of first things to accomplish was the construction of the coaxial transmission line to the combiner and dummy load. Again, fortunately for the stations, s2one has consulting agreements with both Dielectric and Andrew to test transmission lines, combiners and antenna systems.

The rest of the installation went as smoothly, with s2one making suggestions and improvements to the system as it went along. KUED's DTV transmitter was up and on the air ahead of schedule.

With the purchase and installation of a second Harris Diamond transmitter for KULC last summer, nothing was left to chance. The station contracted for the installation and proof directly with s2one.

ADDRESSING PROBLEMS

One challenging thing about the installation of the first transmitter (KUED) was the forced air cooling needed at the 10,000-foot level. On the Diamond Transmitter, any ducting must be routed around the transmission coax.

The HVAC specialist the station hired was able to solve the problem, but the transmitter ran a little warm. This bothered Mark to the point that he redesigned the ducting for

the KULC installation. The result was the coolest running transmitter on the mountain. This is the kind of dedication and detail you can expect from s2one.



This custom cooling shroud was designed for KULC by s2one's Mark Hills.

At a time when KUED/KULC was at its busiest with the challenges of installing DTV in the studio, s2one ran a smooth installation without any hassles. The company provided comprehensive Proof documentation and has been very accessible for follow-up questions.

My stations don't plan on doing this again anytime soon, but when it comes time for system adjustments or improvements, s2one will be first on our call list. ■

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For more information, contact s2one at 800-270-7050 or visit www.s2one.com.