

Nine Network Sees Clearly with Crystal NMS Solution from Magna Systems

- As part of their major nationwide studio and facilities upgrade the Nine Network has chosen the Crystal Network Management System supplied by Magna Systems and Engineering to control its earth stations.

Nine Network CTO, David Bowers, explained, "As many will know we are upgrading our key facilities across Australia. Having moved our Adelaide studios into the centre of the city and with the studios now online, we wanted to be able to remotely control the Adelaide earth station from the new location. This meant obtaining and installing a management system that would work on our network so we set about finding the best one available."



Crystal's products enjoy legendary reliability and resilience.

Geoff Osborne, Engineering Development Manager GTV9 and the NWS team did extensive research before concluding the Network Management System (NMS), which sits at the heart of Crystal Control, was the most suitable for their requirements.

He continued, "There are many systems in the market but we wanted one that we could easily integrate our newly upgraded facilities, such as our Adelaide and Perth studios, into as soon as they come online. We also wanted to be able to use and manage our earth stations from any of our major facilities in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Darwin and Perth. During our evaluation and assessment *it became obvious that Crystal's NMS had some clear advantages over other systems.* As the Crystal solution was developed by experts in satellite control they had almost all of our requirements already covered. As we are also dealing with the RF spectrum Crystal's experience of interfacing with the Nine network's satellite hardware, satellite uplinks, spectrum analysers and power control was another big plus. Basically we realised that Crystal is a product we want to grow with."

The Crystal NMS centralises, tracks and visualises how signals flow through entire video, satellite, and data network systems. Customised for every installation to enhance workflow, NMS connects all equipment, regardless of type, vendor, or age. With a clean dashboard view of all operations and signal flow, normal functions and problem resolution are intuitive. Through automated routine execution, NMS enables rapid failure recovery and geographic diversity switching, which dramatically increase network resiliency and reliability.

Bowers added, "We began the process with Magna and Crystal at this year's NAB and signed the deal at SMPTE in July. The Crystal NMS is a very well-referenced system with the largest number of devices already interfaced of any system on the market and that's impressive."

Crystal Control includes Signal Verification and Smart Routing, developed with and proven at leading contribution operations such as Fox Sports, Fox International, ESPN, CNN and ABC. With one click, operators can auto-route and configure satellite and IP networks and transport stream analysers to rapidly resolve problems in acquiring contribution feeds.

Dave Bowers concluded, "Magna are commissioning the Crystal NMS system on 16 November at which point it will be controlling the Adelaide earth station. Then, by simply using a web interface, the Adelaide earth station will be able to be used by Nine's Sydney and Melbourne sites as they will have visibility and use of the network. That's Phase One. Phase Two will bring the Perth earth station onto the network in the very near future."

For more about Magna Systems, visit www.magnasys.tv

Founded in 1986, Crystal designs and delivers network monitoring and management solutions that improve operational efficiency, analyze errors, and enhance system resiliency, particularly for businesses that deal with complex and dispersed distribution pathways. Every day, program and advertising content worth billions of dollars flows through equipment managed by Crystal for leading media, enterprise, and satellite customers – including Fox, CNN, Disney, and Intelsat. Crystal, a privately held company, is headquartered in Greater Atlanta, GA. For more information visit crystalcc.com.