Mission-critical mastering with R&S®CLIPSTER

Johnny English Strikes Again © Universal Pictures

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom © Universal Pictures

Scenes from two films that Motion Picture Solutions (MPS) has been working on with R&S®CLIPSTER

At a glance

As a film mastering and distribution house, Motion Picture Solutions (MPS) offers unparalleled expertise in digital cinema package (DCP) creation for Hollywood studios, but their services reach far wider. While a large amount of their work is for the "big six", offering global trailer distribution and DCP delivery using IP and satellite solutions, they also do a lot of independent movies.

Executive summary

ı **Customer:** Motion Picture Solutions (MPS), London
ı **Task:** DCP and IMF mastering, versioning, localization, modification, graphics work
ı **Challenge:** MPS needs to work with the latest technologies to address the numerous market demands for HDR and SDR deliverables for cinema and home entertainment.
ı **Solution/product:** R&S®CLIPSTER
ı **R&S®CLIPSTER key facts:**
  · Compliant with the latest standards for IMF and DCI, HDR, Dolby® Vision, Dolby® Atmos, etc.
  · High precision color processing engine
  · Rich connectivity to external devices

Dolby® is a registered trademark of Dolby Laboratories.

ROHDE & SCHWARZ

About Motion Picture Solutions

Based in West London, Motion Picture Solutions is a leading international film services facility that supports major studios and independent distributors alike with the worldwide theatrical release of titles including day-and-date blockbuster franchises. With a services suite that encompasses mastering, content localization, creative effects work and secure electronic distribution through to live event cinema and downstream VOD deliverables, MPS has been operating in the digital cinema sector since the company was founded in 2005.

In 2017, MPS opened a joint venture facility in Burbank, California – MPSLabo – in collaboration with Latin American post production specialist, Labo Digital, bringing the two companies' combined strengths to the heart of the domestic film business.

MPS's way to R&S®CLIPSTER

Andy Howard, Head of Production Engineering at Motion Picture Solutions, articulates the reasons behind his continued investment in R&S®CLIPSTER devices for DCP and future IMF delivery: "In an average month, MPS will work on at least three major features. For a global release, we can create DCPs for up to 35 different territories, all of which we handle with our R&S®CLIPSTER devices.
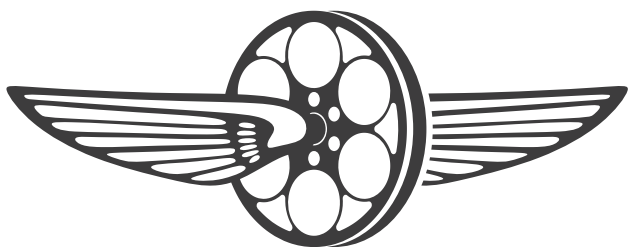
MPS got its first R&S®CLIPSTER seven years ago and has been continually adding more and upgrading ever since. We now have two R&S®CLIPSTER V5 and eight new R&S®CLIPSTER V6. Thanks to the maintenance program, we're always on the latest software release. There's been no problem with upgrades over the years. The connectivity on the back, whether it's SDI, RS-232 control, or Fibre Channel network, is very generic; you can literally just pull one unit out and slide another one in."

Shot-based workflow

Howard continues: "We will version the DCPs based on markets. For a big release you might have 120 shots that need localization and graphics work. This could include road signs that might be in a particular language that we have to change according to the territory, or a shot of a mobile phone with a vital text message on it that we

R&S®CLIPSTER is the gold standard solution for mastering and distribution of feature films and episodic TV. It is a powerful tool for editing any type of media, in any resolution, and creating a high-quality professional deliverable that meets stringent, professional delivery specifications. R&S®CLIPSTER is the foundation of choice for post-production vendors to build services upon.

Motion Picture Solutions

MPS relies on products from Rohde & Schwarz.

had to replace for 32 different languages. Any sort of editorial trimming and graphic effects that we need can be achieved by pulling clips from our R&S®CLIPSTER devices.

On a typical project, film masters will be in the digital cinema distribution master (DCDM) or DCP format. They come in via Aspera to our Data I/O department where they are ingested into our SAN. From here, any clips that need localization or modification are exported using our R&S®CLIPSTER devices. Our teams work on the shots with a combination of tools including Adobe After Effects, Cinema 4D and Nuke, before dropping them back into the timeline on the R&S®CLIPSTER ahead of mastering to DCP and distribution."

Future IMF demand
"MPS has to be able to support the very latest technologies as well as all the traditional deliveries for our clients," Howard explains. "We can see advantages in fulfilling versioning within the IMF package, particularly with respect to demand for VOD. Doing another VOD version in our pipeline is relatively straightforward, so the fact that our R&S®CLIPSTER devices are all IMF-capable was one of the reasons for buying so many of them. Another of the key new R&S®CLIPSTER features is the color processing engine. We have to service the HDR market and this allows us to work with Dolby® Vision HDR for cinema as well as being geared up to do HDR for VOD."

Global support
"You always feel you're buying a high-quality product," says Howard. "With the Rohde & Schwarz support plan, you receive all the maintenance releases driven by the company's near-constant R&D as well as a great first line local response. We have direct contact with the German engineers via a ticketing system.

As well as support and feedback, being able to talk directly to the product managers in Germany allows us to integrate things such as forensic watermarking into all of our infrastructure. We see this very much as an extension of our own R&D team.

We have an LA office in Burbank, with R&S®CLIPSTER devices and SANs supported locally by Rohde & Schwarz, so the same manufacturer is dealing globally with our offices. I can't emphasize how important that is, because our LA office is where all the studios are. You need a company that has the right global infrastructure."

Mission-critical
Howard points out: "Our clients are doing huge worldwide releases, so we need to provide them with the level of service that their work demands. Our suppliers therefore have to provide us with that same level of reliability.

A major, highly technical and competent company such as Rohde & Schwarz has a very good pedigree as well as a depth of technical and logistical resources that a lot of its smaller competitors don't even come close to offering. When it comes to a major release – and the company's reputation is on the line – it's worth paying that little bit extra to know that you can deliver. For us, failure to deliver content on time is unthinkable."

"There's been no problem with upgrades over the years. The connectivity on the back is very generic; you can literally just pull one unit out and slide another one in."

Andy Howard, Head of Production Engineering at Motion Picture Solutions

About Rohde & Schwarz

The Rohde & Schwarz electronics group offers innovative solutions in the following business fields: test and measurement, broadcast and media, secure communications, cybersecurity, monitoring and network testing. Founded more than 80 years ago, the independent company which is headquartered in Munich, Germany, has an extensive sales and service network with locations in more than 70 countries.

Sustainable product design

▪ Environmental compatibility and eco-footprint
▪ Energy efficiency and low emissions
▪ Longevity and optimized total cost of ownership

Certified Quality Management
ISO 9001

Certified Environmental Management
ISO 14001

Rohde & Schwarz GmbH & Co. KG

www.rohde-schwarz.com

Rohde & Schwarz training

www.training.rohde-schwarz.com

Regional contact

▪ Europe, Africa, Middle East | +49 89 4129 12345
customersupport@rohde-schwarz.com
▪ North America | 1 888 TEST RSA (1 888 837 87 72)
customer.support@rsa.rohde-schwarz.com
▪ Latin America | +1 410 910 79 88
customersupport.la@rohde-schwarz.com
▪ Asia Pacific | +65 65 13 04 88
customersupport.asia@rohde-schwarz.com
▪ China | +86 800 810 82 28 | +86 400 650 58 96
customersupport.china@rohde-schwarz.com