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## **Professional Communications Systems and Detroit Public TV Nominated for a Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award**

TAMPA, Fla., December 18, 2008 -- Professional Communications Systems (PCS) and Detroit Public TV (DPTV) have been nominated for a Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award for their work in systems design and integration of the new DPTV all digital broadcast facility located in Wixom, Michigan.

The nomination was announced by Broadcast Engineering Magazine as part of the publication's eighth annual Excellence Awards competition. The nomination is in the *New Studio or RF technology – TV Station* category and is the sixth award nomination received by PCS for systems design and integration of broadcast facilities for clients. The company also was a recipient of a Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award in 2005 for its integration of KCEN-TV in Waco, Texas. Other Excellence Award nominations have included WBTW News Channel 13 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, WINK-TV in Fort Myers, Florida, WMFE in Orlando, Florida and KWTW-News 9 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Tony Stephens, president of Professional Communications Systems, noted, "We appreciate the nomination by Broadcast Engineering Magazine for our work with Detroit Public TV. PCS has a long history of working with public broadcast stations and the Detroit Public TV digital transition project is one that required particularly close collaboration with the client in its successful completion. The end result is one that we and Detroit Public TV are very proud of."

In addition to the Broadcast Engineering Magazine Excellence Award nomination, PCS was recently recognized by several manufacturers of professional video and broadcast equipment for its sales and marketing achievements. Ikegami has awarded PCS with the 2008 *Partners for Excellence Dealer Award*. Christie bestowed its 2008 *VIP Platinum Partner Recognition Award* and Omneon recognized PCS with its 2008 *Power of Blue Market Development Award*.

PCS began in 1985 in Tampa, Florida. Today with eight offices, Professional Communications Systems is a leading broadcast and audiovisual systems integrator and equipment supplier. Operated as a privately held company for its first eleven years, in 1996 PCS became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Media General, Inc. a diversified, publicly owned media company. PCS is a member of the Professional Systems Network International.

-- more --

-- add one, "PCS Nominated for a Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award"--

**Broadcast Engineering EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**DPTV's new all-digital facility provides solution for efficiency and future growth**

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**WTVS Detroit Public Television's broadcast facilities were constrained in space and its operations limited by the lack of a digital support infrastructure. A larger facility was the most cost-efficient path for HD capability and adequate support facilities.**

DPTV acquired a new building and embarked on a multiphase renovation, construction and technology transition plan. A compressed timeline was required, and production and on-air services had to be transferred at minimal cost and completed over a weekend.

Helge Blucher, DPTV VP of engineering, gathered a team of veteran professionals for the intervenor tasks. DPTV had worked with URS and Oliver/Hatchler on the initial Wisconsin space planning and construction. URS also designed the mechanical, electrical and grounding systems for the new broadcast operations center and master control room. Design plans were completed in late 2007 with a construction completion date set for May 2008 and operational transition by July. The complex project became a case study for success in planning, preparation and collaboration.

DPTV called upon Professional Communications Systems (PCS) for broadcast systems design, equipment procurement and the technical installation. Subsequent budget reductions, however, forced an eleventh-hour switch in plans that created the project's biggest challenge. DPTV staff had to perform the installation, necessitating a shift in tactical planning. It became essential to assemble a team that could provide guidance to DPTV. Contingency planning and frequent communication via almost daily conference calls set a new standard in collaboration.

To meet deadlines and provide DPTV with pre-engineered material, PCS prefabricated all harness and cabling in-house and prepared system documentation along with detailed installation guidelines. DPTV installed racks, patch panels, monitoring and inter-rack cabling before the actual physical move of the broadcast equipment.

The transition from old to new went smoothly. The station's channels remained on-air during the switchover using a borrowed server and spare encoder/multiplexer. The upgrade included new HC consoles, monitoring and multi-image processing for fiber transmission. The existing automation system was enhanced, and a new master clock and synchronization system were installed.

Station operations are now more efficient with room for growth. Blucher credits staff dedication, vendor cooperation, communication and planning as key elements to success. The station now broadcasts one HD channel and two SD channels and plans to build three new HD production studios.

**PCS:**  
Larry Stephens, account mgr.;  
Tom Sloan, VP eng.;  
Dave Palmer, design eng.;  
Troy Pazo, installation mgr.;  
Marvin Born, proj. mgr.

**URS:**  
Don Archibald, dr.

**Oliver/Hatchler Construction:**  
Chris Laycock, pmg mgr.

**Technology at work**

Dolby  
DR-564 decoder  
DP569 encoder  
Evertz  
VTP video processor  
VTP HD/SD module  
Harris  
Leitch HTG-3901-SYS-3E NEO HTG  
Leitch GPS-3903 GPS  
Leitch TSG-3903 test generator  
Valeport VTH-4100-PCG  
VTM-2400 monitor  
Ipswitch What'sUp Gold  
SRMP monitoring  
RISSE Abantele racks  
HVISION FRS-128 HD router  
Sharp 52in LCD displays  
TBC Consoles custom video wall  
Wohler audio monitors

**Suggested Caption:**

Broadcast Engineering Magazine has announced the nomination of Professional Communications Systems' Detroit Public TV broadcast systems integration project for an Excellence Award in its eighth annual awards competition. Readers may vote on-line for PCS and the Detroit Public TV project at <http://broadcastengineering.com>.