



Datapath helps dream take flight with Japan airport

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BACKGROUND

Located at Chubu, Centrair International Airport in Nagoya, Japan is a key transport hub for the far east, catering for over 10million passengers annually and operating with over 40 contracted airlines.

Air travel plays an important role to the region, both in geographic and economic terms. The area of Chubu (central in Japanese), is known to provide over a third of the parts used to build Boeing's 787 aircraft, so a fitting attraction was planned to acknowledge this fact and bring a one-off spectacle to travellers as they pass through the airport halls. It was to be named the 'Flight of Dreams' and Datapath are proud to have played our part in helping to deliver this awe-inspiring demonstration of AV technology.

THE CHALLENGE

Integrators Taneisha and creative art collective teamLab were tasked to deliver what can only be described as a 'one-off' installation – to bring Boeing's first ever 787 aircraft, ZA001, to life with projection mapping and audio as the airport's main attraction.

With an indoor area of over 80m x 80m, plus the myriad of angles and surfaces of a full-sized aircraft, challenges were plenty – not least the rendering and syncing of dozens of signals to create a seamless, matching image as the dynamic content plays out.

THE SOLUTION

Using Epson projectors, the selection of the processing hardware was critical to the project. Datapath Fx4-SDI video controllers were chosen to receive video signals from content PCs, where the signal is converted to SDI before being transported over optical cables. It is then converted back to SDI for projection. The integrator opted for optical cable due to distances, with noise being another reason for not using SDI cables all the way through.

Furthermore, there are nearly 100 signals coming out from Datapath's Fx4-SDI processors, with each one being full HD. With no need to support variable inputs and due to the content being mapped in advance, the integrator used peer-to-peer configuration of video transmission, without the need for high performance switchers and a (more costly) AV over IP approach.

A spokesperson for Taneisha, who worked on the project, was full of praise for the benefits Datapath's Fx4-SDI brought to the project.

He said: "A lot of the Flight of Dreams output video is non-standard resolutions. The Fx4 being able to handle these non-standard resolutions was highly beneficial. It was also great that the Datapath Fx4-SDI could accept DisplayPort input and output SDI. Signal transmission was crucial for this project and the Fx4 allowed us to proceed with our intended design and system choices and employ our desired signal extension to the projectors."

The result is spectacular. Nothing quite prepares you for seeing a Boeing 787 'moving' inside an airport and the installation ticks all boxes in providing a fitting acknowledgment to the area's Boeing business while providing sky-high wow factor to local and international travellers.

REFERENCE

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Project worker, Taneisha

KIT LIST

- Datapath Fx4-SDI display controllers
- Epson Projectors
- Dell workstations
- Crown amplifiers
- JBL speakers

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