



# EASYNET AND SKY NEWS

## A Royal Broadcast

### A momentous occasion

On Friday 29th April, Easynet was tasked with providing a broadcast network that would faultlessly transmit footage from the wedding of HRH Prince William and Kate Middleton, an event watched by an estimated 2.5 billion viewers across the globe. With viewers tuning in to watch the 'event of the decade', broadcaster Sky News had no margin for error, and needed a highly resilient, robust network to ensure every aspect of the event was captured in high definition. It turned to Easynet, which designed, implemented and managed the entire contribution network from end to end.

Jackie Faulkner, Head of Operations at Sky News, comments: "Based on our experience working alongside Easynet for the broadcast of the Obama inauguration and the Leaders Debate that took place in the run up to the UK General Election, we turned to its team again as we were confident that it was the ideal partner to deliver a comprehensive and reliable solution that could meet our requirements."

### Reliability guaranteed

Providing sufficient capacity to broadcast a one-off event in HD from an outside location meant that the project had the potential to become costly and time-consuming, whilst the tight timescale meant that any issues had to be resolved promptly. To ensure the entire event was broadcast successfully, Easynet provided a multi-gigabyte Internet Protocol (IP) network and comprehensive back-up infrastructure – for maximum resiliency. The network enabled content from multiple locations, including Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the Mall, to be edited and fed back to Sky's broadcasting centre in Osterley, West London. Here it was broadcast in both high definition (HD) and standard definition (SD) so that the viewing public could follow the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge throughout the proceedings.

### Royally broadcast

The fibre network, coupled with high-performance compression technology, gave Sky the capacity to have multiple video transmission feeds on a single platform. At any one time, the network was handling over 30 different feeds, including those from the wedding itself, as well as from the numerous public celebrations across London, and feeds coming in from helicopters above the proceedings.

To make sure everything ran smoothly throughout the event, Easynet's professional services consultants kept in constant contact with Sky at every stage of the process. Sky's Jackie Faulkner continues: "A Royal Wedding is such a monumental occasion, and in this case, it had been forecast that the combined TV viewing figures would position the event as one of the most-watched in history, so we knew that there was no room for error. We therefore needed to know that the event would be broadcast faultlessly to our audience. To ensure this, Easynet collaborated perfectly with our technical and project teams to design, implement and manage the entire contribution network, from location to editing suite and back to Sky HQ."

To make the event as memorable for those watching at home as for those in attendance, Easynet's Video NOC remained on hand throughout the event to guarantee that network performance continued to meet the required standards and ensuring optimised video paths. The MPLS network itself not only performed impeccably, but did so with a minimum of fuss throughout.

In addition to delivering the broadcast feeds direct to the Sky broadcasting centre at Osterley, Easynet delivered 'live-to-air' feeds across three continents, with transmission delivery across Europe, North America and Australasian Broadcasters.

## Company profile

Sky News is an unrivalled, world-class breaking news service with a spirit of innovation and a fresh approach to news broadcasting.

As the UK's first dedicated 24-hour news channel, Sky News has built a deserved reputation for being the first to break major news, and is renowned for the speed of its coverage and flexibility of reporting news live across all its platforms - TV, mobile, online, radio and iPad.



**“Both before and throughout the day, the Easynet team were great. Changes were executed quickly and the entire implementation was carried out in an impressively tight timescale.”**

**Jackie Faulkner, Head of Operations,  
Sky News**

**“Congratulations to Sky, the team at Easynet and the happy couple! This was a fantastic example of using leading edge compression technology and transporting real-time, high definition video using the Easynet network. The Royal Wedding was watched by billions around the globe in real-time, so a potentially high risk project that was delivered with exceptional quality.”**

**David Rowe, CEO, Easynet Global Services**