

KUAT Deploys a 55kW PARALLAX® (PARALLAX) UHF DTV Transmitter from Hitachi Kokusai Electric Comark

SOUTHWICK, MA, September 27, 2023 – Hitachi Kokusai Electric Comark LLC (hereinafter “COMARK”), a manufacturer and supplier of DTV transmitters, encoding systems, and associated field services for over 50 years, has announced that KUAT is now on-the-air with a new COMARK 55kW PARALLAX UHF DTV transmitter. AZPM (Arizona Public Media, KUAT-TV) is the PBS member television station based in Tucson, AZ serving the Southern Arizona market.

KUAT’s former 20+-year-old primary IOT-based DTV transmitter on Mt. Bigelow sustained irreparable damage during winter storms and as a result the station was forced to run at half power via an FCC STA until a replacement could be acquired. Earlier this year, COMARK supplied, installed, and proofed their new PARALLAX model HPTV-PRLX-U32 DTV transmitter to meet the customer’s 54.83 kW TPO requirement.

The new transmitter consists of 2 rack cabinets each equipped with 16 UHF power amplifiers. The PARALLAX transmitter has been delivered with dual EXACT-V2 ATSC exciters (in main/standby configuration) and the liquid cooling system. In addition, COMARK supplied the complete RF mask filter system that incorporates Constant Impedance Filter (CIF) technology and the high-power external hybrid’s for combining both of the transmitter’s PA cabinets.

PARALLAX provides a future proof design to broadcasters:

- High efficiency with wideband Doherty technology
- Unique vertical high-gain power amplifiers, providing 2kW per PA module for UHF
- Asymmetrical Doherty; provides same power in 8VSB (ATSC 1.0) and OFDM (3.0)
- EXACT-V2 DualCast ATSC 1.0 / 3.0 upgradeable; preserves investment
- Hot-swap AC to DC rectifiers with >96% efficiency
- Made in the USA; serviced and supported out of Southwick, MA

COMARK worked with the staff of KUAT to coordinate the shipment, offloading, and placement of the new equipment in the transmitter facility. Mechanical installation of the new transmitter system was completed by late May, followed by the turn on, where COMARK performed the complete proof-of-performance testing.

“COMARK worked very closely with the engineering management of KUAT to provide a complete solution for their site’s unique requirements”, states Joe Turbolski, VP of Sales and Marketing for COMARK. “Our program management performed a detailed site survey to ensure there were no surprises during the delivery and mechanical installation. And our field services group took special care to ensure the system was installed to provide trouble-free operation for years to come.”

“Our new 55 kW Parallax Transmitter has solid state liquid cooled design to meet our current ATSC 1.0 distribution across all of southern Arizona and is Next Gen (ATSC 3.0) ready for the future” states Chris Homer, Chief Broadcast Engineer for Arizona Public Media.

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About Hitachi Kokusai Electric Comark LLC:

For over 50 years COMARK has been synonymous with broadcast expertise and innovation. A trusted partner to the world's leading broadcasters, COMARK has pioneered many developments that have shaped the industry, leading innovation in IOT & MSDC-IOT technology, transistorized solid-state technology, Digital Adaptive Pre-correction (DAP), and also winning multiple Emmy® Awards; and gaining numerous patents in technologies that have become fundamental to broadcasting. COMARK is now building on this great heritage with the release of an entire new range of transmission products for terrestrial television broadcasting, and state-of-the-art products for scientific/industrial RF applications. With thousands of active COMARK transmission systems deployed worldwide and a global support presence, COMARK plans to lead the way in developing technologies for the future, with efficiency and performance initiatives for improving coverage and saving power.

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Information about products from Hitachi-Comark
is available at www.comarktv.com.

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