



UPC “MySports” is now broadcasting live from more and more stadia – **thanks in no small part to Network 41**

Network 41 is playing an essential role in the broadcast of live ice hockey matches on the new UPC sports channel “MySports”. After the technology for the National League was upgraded last year, UPC now wants to equip twelve further sporting arenas with their own transmission networks this year.

With exciting goalmouth action, bone-crunching checks, commentary, interviews and analysis, the new “MySports” channel from UPC has quickly become a big hit with sports fans. The majority of airtime is dedicated to live games from the National League ice hockey championship. As there is a great deal of public interest in teams playing at the second level – the Swiss League – “MySports” has expanded its offering here.

Last year, UPC equipped all stadia in the top league with their own dedicated transmission networks. Now it is the turn of selected hockey arenas from the Swiss League. Network 41 has again been tasked with ensuring the internal lines

and connections are implemented correctly. After all, the path of a signal from the stadium cameras to a TV back home is a long and complicated one.

At the heart of any live broadcast is the broadcasting truck. This is parked close to the stadium and connected to a TV compound. A kind of "pre-direction" takes place in the truck. After this, the prepared camera signal is transmitted to the provider room and from there on to the TV studios – in Erlenbach in the case of "MySports" – where any inserts or commentary are added. Only then is the finished product sent out for the viewer to watch in the comfort of their home.

TV providers attach great importance to having their own transmission networks. Therefore, UPC has equipped all stadia where matches are broadcast live with their own technology. Whilst the hockey arenas in the top division all have fibre-optic networks installed, this is not always the case in the Swiss League. "In general, the technical standards are very different," explains Project Manager Philipp Renggli. For Network 41, this means that each project is planned and implemented individually. "We concentrate on the in-house areas," explains Philipp Renggli. "We build the TV compounds for UPC and the installations in the provider room, and take care of all the cabling.»

Network 41 has worked closely with the client UPC for many years. "This makes our work a lot more straightforward," says Philipp Renggli. De-

pending on the scope of the installations, two or three employees from Network 41 are on site for between two and four days per assignment. Usually, a project takes around two months in total from the first visit to the final handover.

"MySports" is planning to broadcast other sports in addition to ice hockey, including various ball sports. With this in mind, sports arenas across Switzerland are currently being brought up to scratch to enable in-house transmissions. These include the Saalsporthalle in Zurich, the BBC-Arena in Schaffhausen and the Ballsporthalle in Gümüli gen. "However, the type of sport itself isn't important," comments Philipp Renggli. "The technical work remains the same in all cases."



Philipp Renggli
Project Manager, Network 41

"Each project is planned and implemented individually. We're responsible for the in-house areas."