



Case Study

Challenge

Supply a computer switching system that seamlessly integrates new and existing en-route air traffic control systems at airports throughout the United States.

Solution

StarTech.com developed specialized StarView KVM (keyboard, video, mouse) switches based on requirements specified by Lockheed Martin, the contractor approved by the FAA to implement the En-Route Automation Modernization (ERAM) project. These KVMs integrate specialized equipment so that air traffic control staff on the ground can seamlessly and reliably switch between new and existing monitoring systems.

Result

StarTech.com and Lockheed have developed a fully specialized, reliable solution involving over 3000 KVM units to be delivered over a 3 to 4 year span beginning in 2005.

StarTech.com provides Lockheed Martin with critical equipment needed to implement the En-Route Automation Modernization project at airports across the United States

The systems that manage air travel must be reliable. When the FAA needed to update the en-route air traffic management infrastructure at airports across the United States, they selected Lockheed Martin to manage the project. Lockheed needed a seamless way to integrate the new and existing systems into a single work environment in a way that could accommodate existing systems while still providing all the usability enhancements of the new technology being installed.

Lockheed chose StarTech.com to develop and build a specialized KVM switch that could integrate multiple computers, displays, and printers at each user station. It was clear throughout the procurement process that StarTech.com's track record of success both as a innovative solution provider and KVM manufacturer well positioned it to provide the resources and expertise necessary for a successful project outcome. Building a solution required accommodating a range of technologies, including high and low resolution displays, specialized input devices, and serial peripherals. Given the high availability requirements of the air traffic control environment, the final product had to meet Lockheed's strict technical requirements and provide a reliable, transparent end-user experience.

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the manufacturing and operational demands of a project of this scale,” notes Paul Seed, StarTech.com President. “We have the facilities and expertise necessary to translate a drawing or concept into a solution that exceeds our customers’ expectations.”

Developing and proving a specialized product for a mission-critical application is an ongoing process that requires the coordination of resources and information between stakeholders. StarTech.com had to agree to meet ongoing product development milestones specified by Lockheed Martin and guarantee the ability to deliver over 3000 units during a multi-stage rollout spread over a 3 to 4 year period. As a manufacturer with over 20 years of experience, StarTech.com was able to understand the business, technical, and logistical requirements of the project and provide the resources necessary for a successful result.

Conclusion

This project demonstrates the power of experience and a results-oriented partnership focus. By working together, StarTech.com and Lockheed Martin were able to develop a switching solution that supported the overall project objective of providing a seamless, reliable transition to new air traffic control monitoring systems for airports across the United States.

