



KOAA upgrades live ENG reports with JVC ProHD Portable Bridge

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The Customer:

KOAA, the NBC affiliate for Colorado Springs-Pueblo, CO (DMA #88)



KOAA is using the JVC ProHD Portable Bridge to stream live ENG reports from across its viewing area.

The Challenge:

Improve live ENG shots across its viewing area.

The Solution:

The station is using three ProHD Portable Bridge wireless cellular uplinks.

The Result:

Quentin Henry, KOAA chief engineer, said the Portable Bridge's integrated high gain antennas and bonded cellular redundancy provide a big improvement over single path streaming technology. While Henry is not ready to eliminate the station's satellite and microwave trucks, the Portable Bridge units have essentially replaced the station's Verizon mobile hotspots and LTE modems.

"It doesn't have a monthly operating cost except for the data you use," he explained. "That was very attractive. And it gives us more tools in our toolbox to use. With all of the functionality benefits wrapped up, in addition to the financial advantages, it just made so much sense for us to go in that direction."

Most of the time, KOAA only uses the Portable Bridge with one camera, but Henry said the station has streamed live footage from multiple cameras on occasion. It also doubles as a secure, high-speed hotspot, which was another selling point for Henry. He said the Portable Bridge is a "portable office" for the station's multimedia journalists, because it allows them to connect mobile phones and laptops to the internet.

Some KOAA MMJs have found creative ways to use the Portable Bridge to deliver unique footage. For example, they mount a JVC camera on a tripod in the back seat of their vehicle, then shoot weather and traffic coverage through the windshield live from their car while narrating from the driver's seat. "It's our morning crew's favorite tool. They use it for everything," Henry said. "It's just solid as a rock. There's no dropout. It's great."