

Radio World

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USER REPORT

KUSC(FM) Likes Diversity of FMX480

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LOS ANGELES This year, KUSC(FM) upgraded its four stations to HD Radio, bringing in HD Radio technology to the public radio audience in Southern California.

In our efforts to provide the best complete service, we also decided to expand our RDS capabilities. To achieve this goal efficiently, we needed to be able to access the RDS encoder at the transmitter site from any point at anytime via the Internet, in order to make text and other changes a simple task. The FMX480 digiplexer from Audemat-Aztec met each of our requirements.

The one-box aspect of the FMX480 is naturally better than separate encoders, and enables synchronization of subcarriers.

The FMX480 uses DSP to create a nice stereo signal, and offers audio that is free of harmonics and filtering prob-

lems. We chose the FMX480 multiplexer out of the three encoding products offered by Audemat-Aztec because of its diversity. The single-RU unit offers the FMB80 RDS encoder, sound pro-

rate units would because subcarriers are combined in a single digital operation.

Unlike with the use of separate units, noise build-up is a non-issue. There are no analog band-pass filters in the encoder to



The FMX480 features an embedded Web server supported by network protocols, like TCP/IP.

cessor, digital stereo generator, DARC encoder and digital composite clipper.

We are using the RDS encoder section out of the FMX480, but as every broadcast engineer knows, you can never have enough redundancy. So we have a spare stereo generator, audio processor and digital composite clipper. Additionally, we have the ability to encode DARC in case we need to do so in the future.

Not only does the FMX480 offer full remote access via its 10BaseT Ethernet port, it has an embedded Web server supported by most often used network protocols, such as TCP/IP, Telnet and FTP. This makes the transfer of music information data from our automation system over the Internet easy and efficient.

The one-box aspect of the FMX480 is naturally better than separate encoders, and enables synchronization of subcarriers. This lets you adjust their levels interactively for easy control of overall deviation through a graphical representation of the modulation level. It gives you a cleaner signal than sepa-

rate units would because subcarriers are combined in a single digital operation.

A possible configuration for using the FMX480 is when radio stations install a sound processor in the studio. The FMX480 would be installed on the transmitter site, where it would “clean” the audio signals that have been altered by the transport. It would then “clip” the composite signal using a predictive algorithm, which processes the signal at its source.

Not only has the FMX480 given us the results we were looking for, but the technical and customer support provided by Audemat-Aztec North America has been first class.

For more information, including pricing, contact Audemat-Aztec in Miami at (305) 692-7555 or visit www.audemat-aztec.com.

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