

TRANSMISSION TIMES





Satellite and More From Singapore

When we say we provide transmission services across the globe, we mean it. Recently, the PSSI Global Services team met up with the Concom crew in Singapore for a variety of UFC events, including episodes 1-4 of Road to UFC, the weigh-in shows and UFC 275 on pay-per-view.

For this exciting international project, we utilized traditional satellite work flows in conjunction with venue origination kits and Telstra's Special Events Network, GMN and Media Data. With this combined technology, we delivered feeds from the Singapore Indoor Stadium directly back to UFC Apex in Las Vegas and PSSI International Teleport. UFC Apex served as a hub to turn the program feeds to domestic satellite and on-pass international

feeds to the AT&T GVS and Telstra GMN for further distribution. PIT also played a major role, serving as a hot standby to UFC Apex for North American satellite distribution.

In addition to providing fiber and satellite services, we partnered with Nextologies to deliver IP-based disaster recovery feeds, as well as additional content from Singapore to enhance the UFC French, Spanish and Portuguese unilateral programs.

Pulling all these elements together involved working with multiple teleports located in several time zones around the world, and our project management team remained connected with Concom's production team via voice communication systems over IP and fiber. All sites had instant communication with UFC Apex and information was shared between the origination and distribution sites in real-time during the events.

It's projects like this that truly set PSSI apart from the competition. Our ability to integrate these various technologies in collaboration with our trusted partners allows us to enhance the overall production value we offer our clients and seamlessly navigate even the most complex transmission challenges.



Spotlight on David Meyer



Q Please tell us about your journey to your current role at PSSI.

A After graduating from Washington State University in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in communication (broadcast), I landed at KIRO-TV, a CBS affiliate in Seattle. I started out operating microwave news trucks, and then moved up to operating Ku satellite trucks and a coordinator position in the ENG feed room. I was hand-picked by Mark Fortier as his successor in the PNW when he moved to Las Vegas to be the chief engineer in 2004.

Q Please tell us a little bit about your daily work at PSSI.

A I keep busy around the house until the phone rings! No, seriously, I used to just be "the news guy" in the northwest until a few years ago when I got my CDL and could get in on the bigger C-band trucks. Though I used to be kept to just my region, now I go wherever PSSI needs me. The jobs are varied and about 50-50 between Ku- and C-band, and no two days are ever the same. In the past few months, I've done golf, rugby, bowling, hockey, baseball and a parade.

Q What are your favorite things about working in this industry?

A I'm a very independent person, and there's a satisfaction in being personally responsible for my, and the company's, success. Also, I've been a grease monkey since I was young, so working in and around vehicles suits me. The freedom of the road, and no two days ever being the same, are big plusses.

Q What is your favorite PSSI memory?

A My first two weeks at PSSI were pretty exciting. Picking up a truck in Oakland with stops in Berkeley, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Wyoming before going home was quite an introduction. Covering Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans for three weeks was also a big deal, and the live nature shows we did for BBC/PBS in Alaska and Texas were quite memorable.

Q If not this career, what?

A My original plan out of high school was to become a recording engineer at a studio somewhere. I had also considered being a CAD engineer or a technical writer. After college, I thought I might work in a production house doing commercial production, until TV news came calling.

Q Please tell us a bit about your family.

A It all started at a bar in Canada when I asked my wife Deidre (Dede) to dance. Ha! Together since 1989 and married since 1993, we have three adult children and have lived in Lynnwood, Washington, since 1997. Dede has been with Premiera Blue Cross since 2008 and recently moved up to a new position as a health care data analyst. Our oldest, John, who's nearly 28, is finishing school and working full time as a Softtrip engineer (IT specialist for a travel company). Our daughter, Michaela, who is 26 and graduated from Pepperdine University in 2018, is currently working for a travel company based in Portland, Oregon, as an air travel ticketing specialist. Our youngest, Ryan, turned 21 in February. He's attending Lake Washington Tech, studying UX design.

Q What's something people might be surprised to learn about you?

A I'm a big music fan. I'm mainly a drummer but also tinker a little with keyboards and guitars. I was once in a Beatles cover band called Rubber Soul, and once upon a time, I auditioned to be a member of the Blue Man Group. When John moves out, I will reclaim the room for my in-home studio. I'm also a big soccer fan that avidly roots for the best team in the MLS, the Seattle Sounders.

Mastering MMA With the Professional Fighters League

PSSI started providing resources to the Professional Fighters League in 2019 and has been a part of the league's explosive growth. This year, the PFL expanded the length of its schedule and the reach of its international broadcasts, while also adding the Challenger Series at the beginning of the year to search for up-and-coming MMA talent from around the world. And of course, we were here to help!

For the Challenger Series, we provided an IP stream and a satellite uplink to fuboTV, the U.S. broadcaster for the season. The uplink also transmitted the world program to PSSI International Teleport (PIT) for distribution via fiber to the United Kingdom, for uplink to a European satellite, and for a drop at BT Tower for international licensees in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and other territories. PIT also fed the world program to Latin America via satellite and worked with the PFL digital group to provide multiple IP streams to international licensees and domestic takers such as YouTube and Facebook.

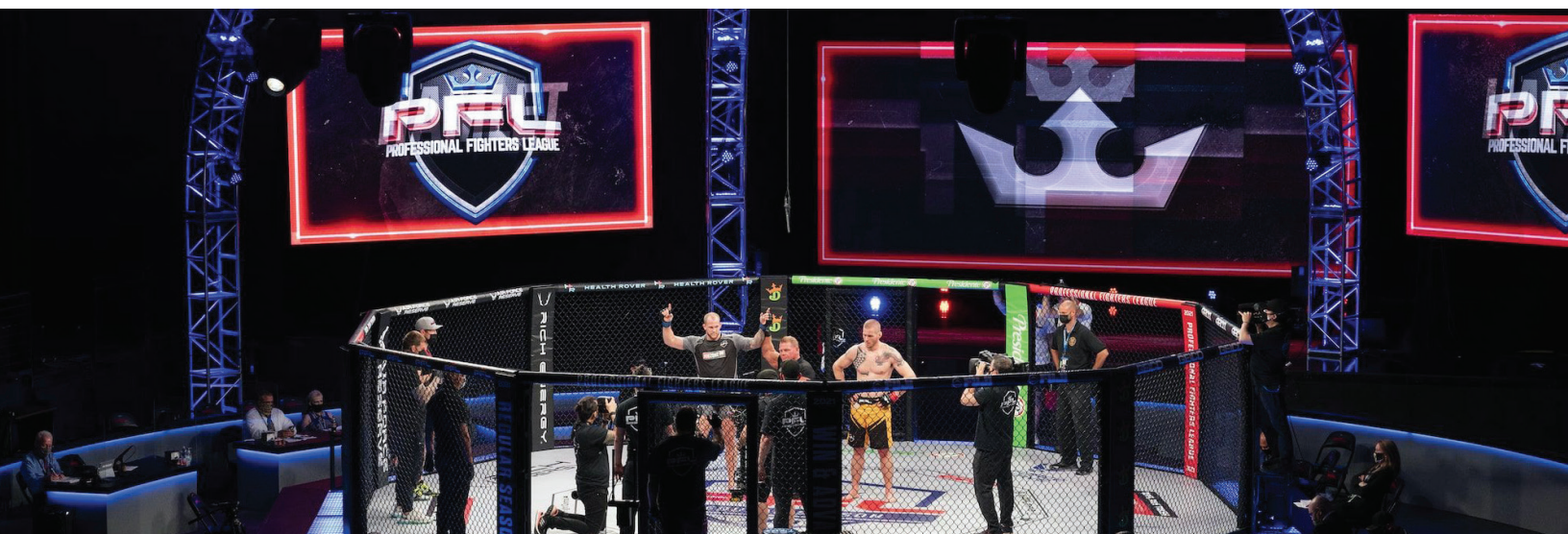
We also provided the equipment and services needed to trigger fuboTV's commercials remotely from a site in Florida. This required special SCTE and other equipment, dedicated IP streams from Universal, and additional engineering and monitoring tasks beyond our engineers' usual daily satellite transmission and other IP duties.

The league's season began with the first three shows from the Esports Arena in Arlington, Texas, and after a short break, the final three events were held in June from the Overtime Elite Arena in the

heart of Atlanta, Georgia. ESPN and ESPN+ were the domestic broadcasters for the League season, and we provided them with redundant pathways from both locations. The feeds in Texas were via fiber and satellite, and the pair in Georgia were via two satellite uplinks.

The number of international licensees increased for the season, and PIT nearly doubled the number of IP streams fed each week, including LiveU, RTMP and SRT. We continued to transmit the world program via the satellites in Europe and Latin America, with multiple BT Tower drops. There were additional satellite and fiber feeds as well for unilateral content.

And we're not done yet! The playoff events begin in August at the Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden. The transmission schematic for this first event will follow the same setup as the events in Atlanta. The last two playoff events will be out of the United Kingdom, creating exciting new challenges for our team. As always, we are looking forward to continuing to find innovative solutions to meet the extensive and ever-increasing needs of the PFL.



Wishing a Happy Retirement to Fran Chew!



“ I would like to congratulate Fran on her retirement from PSSI International Teleport. During her 14 years with the company, I have had the pleasure to work side by side with her and consider her not only a valuable asset to our team but an enjoyable presence in the office. Fran, your contributions, humor and dedication over the years will be missed by all of us at the teleport. So, while we are saddened to see you go, you can now enjoy your time with your grandchildren, spoiling them and spending time at your camp.

Thank you for all you have done over the years, and we wish you the best in your future endeavors.

– Bill Sciolla

Vice President and General Manager, PIT

Engineer of the Quarter: David Meyer

“ David never gives up and asks for help when he needs it.”

– Mark Huss, Senior Engineer

As much as we try to prepare for every possible scenario, with multiple redundancies in case of faulty equipment, sometimes things just happen out there. David's one of three or four engineers who you just know will be able to figure out any problem that presents itself on a jobsite. He'll have a cool head, ask the right questions, make the right moves and get it done. He's the MacGyver of uplink guys, and we are lucky to have him on our team.”

– Clint Bergeson, General Manager

