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EVERYTHING HAPPENS IN VEGAS

The biggest game in the world wasn't quite enough for a week in the life of PSSI. Leading up to Super Bowl LVIII, PSSI tackled a schedule full of high profile events in Las Vegas.



The monster week of live events kicked off on February 8, when PSSI provided domestic and international transmission for ESPN Top Rank boxing at Mandalay Bay, making sure the Teofimo Lopez vs. Jamaine Ortiz fight went smoothly, with the international feed running through PSSI International Teleport (PIT). That same day, PSSI handled all transmission paths for WWE's WrestleMania 40 live kickoff press conference from T-Mobile Arena, as well as the NFL Honors Ceremony at Resorts World.

For UFC, PSSI took on three more events: the 2024 Twitch Rivals Streamer Bowl, live from UFC Apex, UFC Fight Night 151 and the season finale of Power Slap. The Power Slap Finale was held live at Durango Casino on February 9 and was ingested by our team at the UFC Apex facility, with more international distribution through PIT for both Slap and Fight Night.

While our engineering and project management teams were taking care of these events, they also found time to prepare massive shipments of technical equipment to cover golf and UFC events in Mexico, as well as for WWE in Perth, Australia.

With all of that going on, we had a team of engineers focused solely on preparing for Super Bowl LVIII Allegiant Stadium on February 11. As with any Super Bowl, there was a lot of programming leading up to the big game. PSSI deployed



multiple trucks across the city for CBS and CBS Sports Network, including a presence at the Bellagio for the week-long desk show in front of the fountain. We had a truck in the international compound of Allegiant Stadium for international distribution and two trucks in the central compound for the main event, one of which ingested a live commercial feed from Atlanta to be incorporated into the main broadcast. Super Bowl LVIII was the first ever Super Bowl broadcast in HDR 1080p on Paramount+ and CBS, and PSSI was proud to be a critical part of this historic milestone in television history.

All in a week's work!



FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN

On a number of occasions this quarter, PSSI has demonstrated our capacity for remote production of events that originate internationally.

Top Rank Boxing, Japan

Although the event took place overseas, the production and most of the transmission for the Top Rank Boxing Japan fight happened in the U.S. Atomic Television near the PSSI Las Vegas offices served as the production facility, where they took in a clean feed and added full on-site on-camera talent voicing and graphics. We had an engineer on-site at Atomic to process the feeds and deliver to PSSI International Teleport for re-distribution to international licensees.

The teleport was then responsible for catching the fiber clean feed, delivering return configuration to Japan, catching primary and backup World and ESPN feeds, frame converting 50Hz feeds for International, providing uplink for U.S. domestic satellite takers, and quality controlling of all delivered feeds and distributions. **Simple!**

Multiple Simultaneous Broadcasts

Coinciding international broadcasts are a common occurrence at PSSI. This quarter, three PSSI engineers, working alongside Mexican vendors, were in Puerto Vallarta for the Mexico Open at Vidanta, providing extensive encoding and satellite uplinks for the PGA. At the same time, our UFC team was in Mexico City for UFC Fight Night: Moreno vs Royval 2. Two engineers and two bilingual project managers worked alongside Mexican satellite vendors on the event.

Meanwhile, the big show was in Perth, Australia, for the WWE Elimination Chamber PLE. We collaborated with IP-Uplinks and Telstra Broadcast Services for multiple pathways to and from Perth to licensees around the world. Three engineers and a project manager served on the ground in Perth, and PSSI International Teleport was the North American transmission hub.

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ENGINEERS OF THE QUARTER

CHRIS HOVDEN



Chris Hovden is a really smart engineer and a pleasure to work with. He's always thinking one step ahead for all aspects of a given event, from equipment needs to client expectations to logistics. Over the past decade, Chris has quietly developed his skills to the point where he can do pretty much anything we throw at him. He can run a large aperture C-band antenna, build multi-channel multiplexes for at-home transmissions, set up IP multicast transmissions, and handle an old-fashioned live shot with ease. We're lucky to have Chris on our team!

– *Clint Bergeson* | VP, Operations, PSSI Global Services

SHAWN MARTIN

"Shawn has been with Pittsburgh Teleport/PSSI as a NOC Technician for the past 24 years. During his tenure at the Teleport, he has been responsible for daily transmissions of corporate and major broadcast events, both domestic and international. His duties also include working closely with the project managers on special events, handling space segment and cross poles for the PSSI Global Services team, Strategic TV, and other corporate vendors. Shawn's professionalism and positive attitude as a team player allow him to interact effectively with clients and staff. Let's congratulate Shawn on his achievements and efforts – he is an asset to both the PSSI Teleport and the PSSI organization. We look forward to many more successful years working together."

– *Bill Sciolla* | VP & GM, PSSI International Teleport





SPOTLIGHT ON ...

SHAWN MARTIN



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

A As an operator in the technical operations center – TOC for short – at PSSI International Teleport (PIT), my work varies from day to day. My primary duties consist of ingest and distribution of both satellite and fiber feeds from and to our many clients around the world, answering calls and directing them to the proper person that can help them, writing work orders based on upcoming feeds, and maintaining the weekday schedule as needed from my supervisor, Bill S. I also try to help out with cabling and patch bay work when needed.

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

A One of the best things about this industry is that it is always evolving and growing. This allows for an opportunity to learn new techniques and technologies that are advancing the way we get events to our clients. I also get to collaborate with many of my colleagues and learn from their many years of experience in a variety of these methods of transmission. I've met some great people in the many years I have worked in this industry, although many of them just over the phone.

Q What are your favorite PSSI International Teleport (PIT) memories?

A My favorite memories are both when a new opportunity arose. I was out of work when I got a call from PIT way back in 2000 asking if I would be interested in interviewing for the teleport. I had been laid off and was looking for a few weeks and had applied to a dozen production places in town, including our original video tech center. They weren't hiring but it just so happened the teleport needed someone quick. I remember interviewing with Bill S. and John B. on a Friday, being offered the job, and then starting the following Tuesday. Even though I had no knowledge of the industry, coming from a production education, they gave me the chance and that was never lost on me. I'll also never forget the day I worked my first daylight shift after many years on night shift, and how helpful and welcoming my fellow colleagues were.

Q If not this career, what?

A I would definitely have been either working in the theater in some capacity or as a struggling filmmaker working at a big box store and looking for funding for my latest undiscovered, cinematic masterpiece.

Q Please tell us a bit about your family.

A I've been married for 25 plus years to my wife, Tina. We are blessed to have five very unique felines that let us live with them in the house that my wife and I used to drive past several times a week as the neighborhood was being built back in the early 90s, saying some day we will live in a house just like that.

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

A I am an avid musical theater fan and occasional performer. I spent most of high school doing theater and several years afterward in community theater. I even started as a theater major in college but switched to video/digital production. In more recent years, I have been performing in plays and musicals at our church.

