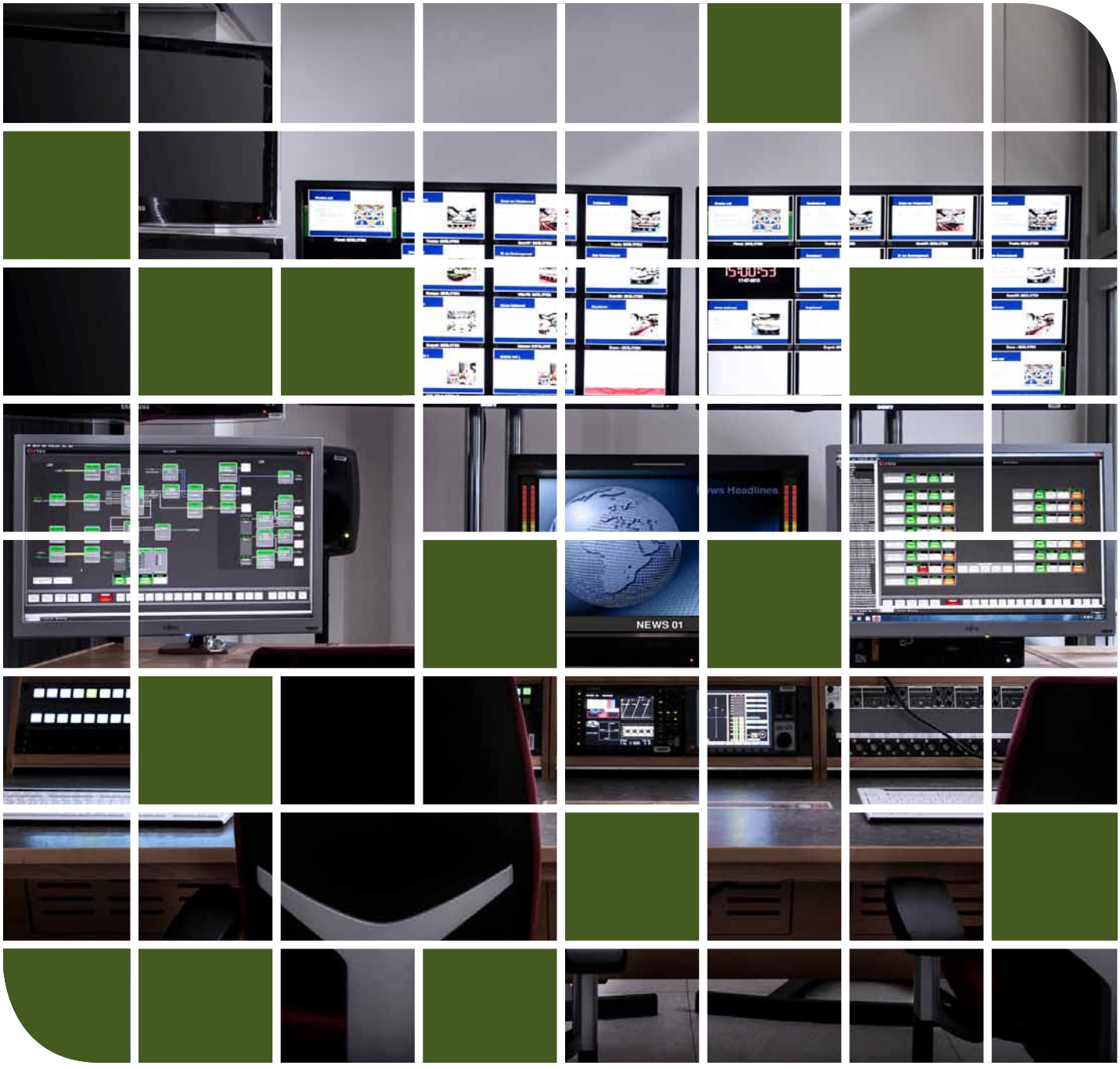
AXON
THE HEART OF BROADCAST

# CEREBRUM | CASE STUDY

## DUTCH PARLIAMENT ENTERS THE FUTURE



AXON CASE STUDY - DUTCH PARLIAMENT



# AXON OPENS EU DEMOCRACY - DUTCH PARLIAMENT ENTERS THE FUTURE AS CITIZENS ENTER NATIONAL MEETING ROOMS

When the Dutch Parliament looked to install a new broadcast system in their parliamentary buildings in The Hague, there was no opportunity to improve an existing infrastructure - there simply wasn't any. They had been using a third party for simple audio and video recording of parliamentary meetings and wanted to bring meeting room video and audio access, control and monitoring in house. The aim was to create a broadcast infrastructure providing completely autonomous monitoring and management that could be easily altered and updated as requirements evolved.

## ANSWERING THE NEED

The desire to open up parliamentary meetings to the public was the catalyst for the new system, helping to bring transparency to parliamentary activities whenever possible. For closed internal meetings, they required a system that would allow secure remote participation of meetings for those with authorisation. No small task. Sony, Broadcast Networks and D&MS in the Netherlands were working on two specific portions of the tender, the larger project ran by the Sony and BN consortium providing primary control, audio visual recording and streaming solutions as well as a secure monitoring system for the eleven parliamentary meeting rooms. D&MS ran the project to install cameras in the main chamber known as "Plenaire Regie" of the "Tweede Kamer" facility. Both turned to Axon for the solution.

*"The real power of the operation of the Axon Cerebrum system was in the ability for the customer to change the system as and when required without the need for costly upgrades. The Cerebrum parliamentary control system and the Axon interfacing and multiviewer systems installed in The Hague were the natural choice for this complex requirement."*

**Tom Haye**
Manager Director
at Broadcast Networks

What might have proven a major stumbling block for many video infrastructure providers was merely the starting point for Axon. The key was to design a bespoke system to meet the specific requirements of the Dutch Parliament. But what if those needs were not clearly defined from the outset? How could a system be created to accommodate future growth and functionality if such needs were undefined? With traditional systems, unknown specification changes can lead to costly upgrade down the road. Not so with Axon. Cerebrum, Axon's comprehensive software solution makes the implementation of control and monitoring systems for multiple video and audio signal paths easier, more efficient and cost-effective by giving users the tools to add or adjust functionality. It was this capability, combined with extensive experience in custom design, that set Axon apart from the competition.

## THE SOLUTION

Two separate Cerebrum systems are at the heart of the installation, each capable of working independently, but with defined connectivity to provide end-to-end quality and reliability. The system identifies functional specifications of each room and provides a status overview for meetings—open or closed, internal or external—at all times. Parameters define monitoring for every meeting by type, and built-in controls route the system status to the right graphics and displays for each room. The system provides completely automated control. For example: when an operator choses a pre-defined meeting type, the system creates the events to make it a private or public meeting and allows correct access and routing of both audio and video for recording and broadcast purposes as required.

All interfaces are graphically-based for easy and intuitive review, providing status of all systems in the meeting rooms at all times. Screens indicate the video and audio source and provide visual notification of any potential problems, in a very clear visual way that's easy for first-line support.

There were no manpower specifications for human oversight of the monitoring system as it had to operate completely autonomously. If a piece of equipment fails or video or audio feeds disappear, the system sends a direct alarm to the operators. And the stakes are high at the busiest times, e.g. when all activities of meeting rooms are available to multiple broadcasters who may each wish to show highlights, or broadcast high-profile meetings in their entirety. This direct access saves significantly on resources and greatly streamlines the workflow and broadcast process.

**The beauty of the integrated system lies within its ease, advanced functionality and highly reliable, autonomous operation.**

Proceedings are also streamed live to the web so the public can view these in real time. Additionally, the system provides log in and access so authorised personnel can remotely attend internal closed meetings.

The second part of the system solution was designed specifically for the Plenaire Regie chamber and functions more as a traditional studio facility, with multiple cameras, switchers, and multiviewers. The control system helps drive the multiviewers on the monitoring wall and perform other tasks such as routing control and camera and joystick overrides.

## CEREBRUM - EMPOWERING CUSTOMERS TO DESIGN THEIR OWN SYSTEMS

Considered the brains behind many and varied workflows, Cerebrum allows remote and easy configuration of complex workflows, the ability to manage and report events using a hierarchical system structure, and control devices via an intuitive, user-friendly graphical interface. Unlimited numbers of users can easily manage multiple, complex routines. Ultimately, the system empowers the customer to design a workflow exactly how they want it. Axon doesn't ask the customer to fit existing or new workflows into an off-the-shelf solution. Our tools enable the system to function in ways that make it more efficient and effective, and allow for future changes or upgrades, because rarely do requirements remain the same over time.

Like all Axon products, Cerebrum is based on our expertise, enhanced by what customers tell us they need. So, along with being packed with powerful features and extensive functionality, Cerebrum is also customisable and intuitive to operate. It is also highly flexible to adapt to specific workflows, delivering a common control and monitoring interface for the 300+ processing modules in Axon's renowned Synapse range, as well as a wealth of devices from different manufacturers.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

While the system for the Dutch Parliament is running smoothly, there are now plans to expand its capabilities. Unlike many manufacturers that tie customers into a specific system, Axon offers the power to adapt or upgrade the solution when requirements change without costly solution upgrades. Quite simply, this means the Parliament can extend operational capacity in-house, without having to turn to Axon and pay more.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