A dazzling partnership streamlines cloud-based live sports productions from across the French-Swiss Alps

How Dejero ensured uninterrupted connectivity in the most challenging of environments and complex network conditions, with French partner, Dazzl

French channel TV8 Mont-Blanc broadcast two high-profile alpine races in one weekend in May 2021: the Dynastar X3 Courchevel Triathlon and the Torgon Trail. The Courchevel Triathlon involves 13.9km of cycling, 6.3km of running and 4.8km of skiing starting at Le Carrey (830m) and reaching the heights of La Saulire (2710m). The Torgon Trail is a mountain trek race of up to 30km in the Rhône valley, just south of Lake Geneva.

In order to broadcast the races to linear TV, Vimeo and social platforms, TV8 Mont-Blanc utilized cloud production platform Dazzl to deliver simultaneous live streams. Dazzl partnered with Dejero to ensure flawless connectivity across challenging terrain and an inconsistent network environment.

“The Dejero system provided the delivery of stable footage, at the level of the finish line in particular, switching seamlessly from French to Swiss networks depending on availability.”

Pierre Boucaud, president, TV8 Mont-Blanc

About Dazzl

Dazzl is an innovative mobile app and cloud-based video production suite revolutionizing the live production and delivery of mobile video content. Using just a browser, the platform brings unprecedented flexibility with real-time stream switching from multiple sources, locations and devices to the cloud, enabling producers to create unique, digital-first broadcasts for social platforms, websites and mobile apps.
Challenge

The races were located on the border between France and Switzerland, a region notorious for fluctuating network coverage from both French and Swiss telecom providers. The races lasted around six hours each, requiring continuous connectivity across various alpine landscapes.

A mixture of snow, high altitude, and changing terrain posed physical demands for production crews as well as the racers, as the operators had to follow the action live without obstructing the course. Had the equipment been too heavy, immobile, or slow to set up, keeping pace with the race would have been nearly impossible.

Furthermore, the traditional method of laying cable along the track or capturing footage from a helicopter is time-consuming, expensive and inefficient, particularly at the heights and distances required of the Courchevel Triathlon and Torgon Trail. Dazzl needed a video transmission solution that offered mobility in addition to reliability.

“In this kind of event, mobility is definitely a key criteria,” said Thierry Scozzesi, CEO at Dazzl. “Not only is a traditional workflow cumbersome to move and complicated to set-up, it is also expensive. Events organisers and broadcasters are now seeking alternatives that overcome these challenges.”

Solution

Dazzl used a Dejero EnGo mobile transmitter to deliver low-latency video via a Dejero Cloud Server, leveraging the company’s patented Smart Blending Technology to create a resilient Internet connection by aggregating multiple networks into a single service.

The straightforward workflow harnessed Dejero’s technology to ingest the camera feed into Dazzl’s browser-based production platform, where it was simultaneously streamed to digital and linear channels without interruption.
As well as the EnGo, a combination of drones, Lumix GH5 cameras, iPads and smartphones running the Dazzl application provided high-quality footage throughout both race courses. This was streamed over RTMP to the Dazzl cloud server for use by the TV8 Mont-Blanc producer, simplifying the complex task of publishing live or recorded video streams in multiple formats to the web and mobile devices.

“Combining Dazzl and Dejero eliminates the need for a traditional control room with a lot of wiring and installation,” said Pierre Boucaud, president of TV8 Mont-Blanc. “The combination makes it possible for broadcasters to deliver a quality livestream with a lot of possibilities, including very welcome network stability.”

Results

The high-quality live video was simultaneously published to Vimeo, YouTube and TV8 Mont-Blanc’s linear TV channel, ultimately being watched by more than 100,000 people across all platforms. Dejero’s Smart Blending Technology secured uninterrupted connectivity across the challenging environments on the French and Swiss networks, intelligently managing the fluctuating bandwidth, packet loss, and latency differences of individual connections in real-time, to reliably transmit high quality video with low latency.

Dazzl reported that 70% of Vimeo viewers watched the stream on mobile, demonstrating the need for stable multi-platform distribution and the efficiency of the combined solution provided by the new partnership. Dazzl’s cloud video platform and Dejero’s video transport solutions create highly flexible opportunities for users to produce, edit and broadcast live video even from remote locations.
"I'm deeply convinced we need this tool for everyday live streaming integrated in our working process."

Pierre Boucaud, president, TV8 Mont-Blanc

“The teamwork between Dejero and Dazzl at the event was fantastic,” said Scozzesi. “Using the EnGo with our Dazzl mobile app meant that we could provide TV8 Mont-Blanc with impressive live shots and unique viewpoints despite the harsh mountainous environment. The partnership with Dejero gave us such flexibility and high-quality footage that we can now confidently offer broadcasters a more portable, quick-to-deploy and cost-effective solution for events that are usually very difficult to cover.”

The workflow proved an ideal solution for broadcasters with any budget, using the robustness of Dejero’s mobile transmitters and the mobility of Dazzl’s app to efficiently cover live events and reach wider audiences through multi-platform delivery.