



Solo Satellite Communications Ltd  
*"Providing Satellite Solutions That Make It Happen"*

# 2003 Newsletter

Wishing You a Merry  
 Christmas  
 and a  
 Happy  
 New 2004



## HOUSTON

...No problem!!

As well as providing uplinks around the globe for the Tennis Masters Series for the last four years, Solo have also covered the Tennis Masters Cup event in those years too.

In 2000 it was Europe (Lisbon, Portugal), in 2001 it was Sydney, Australia, in 2002 Shanghai, China and this year was Houston, Texas. Every year has seen an increase in the facilities we have provided in terms of unilateral feeds and paths from the event as well as the usual World Feeds.

Whilst China last year had challenges

of its own, Houston also provided new challenges. Within Solo's Reflex statistical multiplexer we had a combination of television standards (PAL and NTSC), a combination of encoding standards (4:2:2 and 4:2:0), fixed rate services and statistically multiplexed (variable bit rate) services all within the same DVB multiplex as well as up to eight associated audios sometimes allocated on certain services.

Some services were also "groomed" within the multiplex to make sure they were suitable for transport stream turnarounds both in London for on-pass to Europe and the Middle East as well as in California for on-pass to the Pacific Ocean and Far East.

In total we had five vision and twenty audio paths on the first satellite hop within a 27 MHz bandwidth. At the end of the tournament we were happy to say Houston? no problem!



This year, Solo have again made a donation to charity in place of sending christmas cards



New contact details on the back

[www.solosat.com](http://www.solosat.com)

## A Week in the Life of Solo Satellite 24hr Operations- A Week of Solutions!

### The 10th Island Games



The bi-annual 10th island games 2003 were on Guernsey, an important event in the sporting schedule of 2003 (if you live on an island), the sheer number of competitor's taking part made it one of the largest sporting events of the year with over 2000 athletes from 24 islands ranging in size from Sark to the Falkland islands.

The job was to provide a 2 camera +1VT OB including necessary comms within our uplink to

make 45 mins of live programming per day based around a portable studio. The week's transmissions were so successful that on the final day our client took two matches live and produced a full 6 hours of continuous live programming from the event, we pulled out all the stops and were even able to make use of a spare locked off ENG camera to provide a live shot of the score cards to add to the program.

Its not that often that we turn one of our SNG's into an O.B. capable of producing six hours of live programming, but as usual, we rose to the challenge!



At the end of June an enquiry entered the "Headquarters" at Solo for a flyaway to go to Libya for Colonel Gaddafi presenting his middle eastern peace plan to the School of Oriental and African studies in London. After managing to deal with all the red tape associated with Libya, a private plane was chartered by the client from Leeds/Bradford to Tripoli.

Having arrived in Tripoli, the equipment was taken to the Libyan Broadcasting Service; the following day our engineer's were driven to a presidential palace within Tripoli and after being cleared by heavy security managed to finally erect the flyaway. A scanner was provided and operated the Libyans and in the evening the Leaders presentation followed by a Q & A session went ahead. In London a Solo truck provided the U.K. side of the two way link as well as supplying feeds to various news networks.

Libya

# Solo

## A Week in the Life of Solo Satellite 24hr Operations- A Week of Solutions!



### Monday

- + Solo 1 covers news story in the north of England.
- + Request from new client for flyaways in London and Libya for a two way exchange between Colonel Gaddafi and The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) ð the Colonel's address will be transmitted by News stations globally on Friday. Andy goes to a meeting at the SOAS in London.
- + Late confirmation received for coverage of the Island Games in Guernsey from Saturday.
- + Solo 4 ð Three site surveys for medical and corporate jobs in London.

### Tuesday

- + Solo 1 continues coverage of news story at a new location, still in North of England
- + Solo 2 Travels to Edinburgh for coverage of President Putin's state visit (set up for evening play-outs).
- + Arrangements made to get 500Kg flyaway to Libya [Speedy Visa preparation and import administration needed- working closely with Libyan clients]. ð Some problems with transport due to excess weight and Libya cancelling most incoming flights! Enquiries made for alternative solutions ð such as chartering private plane for crew, clients and kit.

### Wednesday

- + Solo 4 Travels to London with flyaway downlink kit to set up for medical links from hospitals around the country, with a conference at the London Hilton allowing surgeons to watch new procedures live.
- + Solo 4 then travels on to Brighton. ð Solo 2 transmits Putin visit in Edinburgh and makes journey South.
- + Decision made by client to charter plane to Libya from Leeds/Bradford airport early tomorrow.

### Thursday

- + Flyaway and crew leave for Libya. ð
- + Solo 4 morning TX at Brighton Hospital. ð
- + Solo 2 travels to London and sets up for afternoon TX of surgery to medics. ð
- + Solo 4 travels to Surrey to pick up a last minute request for camera/audio hire kit in Guernsey.
- + Job comes in for live links to the "winning dig" in Channel 4's Time Team competition for Friday, Saturday and Sunday- Solo 4 travels on to Time Team location in Taunton, Somerset.
- + Usual parking dispensations and accommodation arranged for various jobs into next week.



### Friday

- + Solo 2 travels to School of Oriental and African Studies for two way link from Libya [Solo office takes downlink detail requests from TV stations across the World]. The Colonel's speech on the future of Middle Eastern relations is transmitted successfully and the Colonel asks to meet the team that made it all possible.
- + Solo 4 does live "Time Team" link and then travels to Portsmouth to catch ferry to Guernsey on Saturday. ð
- + Solo 2 travels to Taunton for a truck change over to continue "Time Team"

### Saturday

- + Solo 1 travels to Scotland for a sports news transmission,
- + Solo 2 covers "Time Team" day 2 in Taunton.
- + Solo 4 travels to Guernsey for first TX in afternoon.
- + Flyaway and crew return from Libya on a private plane at Leeds/Bradford airport and inventory and tests done on kit.

### Sunday

Business as usual ð TX day 3 in Taunton- TX in Guernsey and preparation for the week to come!



Keith

Roy

Zoë

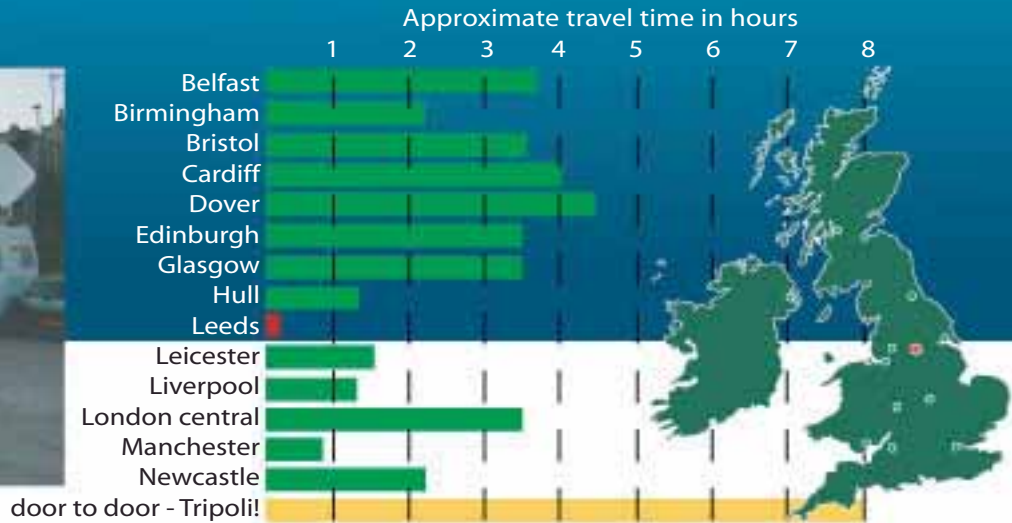
Andy

Jason

The Solo team of Keith, Roy, Zoë, Andy and Jason now enjoy premises in South Leeds with improved access to motorway networks for both the M1 and M62, we can be in central London or central Glasgow within 3.5 hours, Leeds in 15 minutes, or central Manchester in less than an hour.



Solo's base, Leeds



Solo Satellite Communications Ltd.  
 Unit 4, Techno Trading Estate  
 Station Road  
 Leeds  
 LS27 8JR



**Tel: +44 (0)113 2897203**  
 Fax: +44 (0) 113 2597421  
 E-mail: solo@solosat.com



[www.solosat.com](http://www.solosat.com)