

# Curriculum Vitae / Résumé: Dan Gibson

## Introduction

I started in broadcasting with around three years working for a TV broadcaster as an engineer/operator in various areas including studio (sound and vision), off-line, outside broadcast, transmission and master control operations. I then built upon this broad broadcasting experience through working with a digital broadcasting equipment manufacturer and solutions provider, initially as a Field Support Engineer, then as a Systems Specialist.

The support role involved working with broadcasters around the world, fault finding and solving 'real-world', often urgent, system integration problems. Other duties within this role included installations and upgrades, and providing training (both writing and presenting technical training courses).

The System Specialist role involved integration of complex digital broadcasting systems, including broadcast control, and conditional access (content security). A significant part of the role involved integration with third party systems such as automation, programme scheduling, subscriber management systems, set-top-box integration and almost any other aspect of digital broadcasting.

I then spent six months working as a senior broadcast engineer / engineering supervisor for MTV International (based in London), and then took a promotion to manage the engineering team.

I moved from MTV to Viasat in 2007 to manage the engineering team in their UK, multi-channel play-out centre.

Each of these roles has given me exposure to, and required a working understanding of, a significant number of the systems as used by all broadcasters, as well as account, project, and people management.

## Personal Details

<b>Name:</b>	Dan Gibson	<b>Date of Birth:</b>	25th July 1972
<b>Address:</b>	Middlesex, UK (e-mail for details)	<b>Nationality:</b>	British
<b>Marital Status:</b>	Single, living with partner.	<b>Driving License:</b>	Full UK, clean. with Advanced Driving Test and Motorcycle entitlement.
<b>Smoker:</b>	No		
<b>Languages:</b>	English (native), Italian, French	<b>e-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:dan@gonmad.co.uk">dan@gonmad.co.uk</a>

## Qualifications

<b>Further Education</b>	<b>Lancaster University</b>	1990-1993
	Honours Degree in Electronic Engineering (with Physics and Marketing)	
<b>Higher Education</b>	<b>Morton School VI Form, Carlisle</b>	1988-1990
	A-levels: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, General Studies.	
<b>Compulsory Education</b>	<b>Morton Comprehensive, Carlisle</b>	1983-1988
	GCSEs: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Technology, English Language, English Literature, Geography, Art & Design,	
<b>Other Formal Training</b>	Oracle 8i DBA, Informix database management and SQL, TCP/IP Networking and Internetworking, Unix programming (C Programming in a Unix environment), Web Technologies (incl. XML, Server- and Client-side programming), Sony FlexiCart Mechanical maintenance.	

## Employment History

**Current:**

April 2007 –  
Present

**Viasat Broadcasting UK. West Drayton, U.K. Engineering Manager**

**BACKGROUND**

Viasat is a multi-channel broadcaster broadcasting to 24 countries and 100 million people across these countries. Viasat's 30 channel, UK play-out centre employs one of the most integrated file based work-flows in the industry. Broadcast quality material is digitally shareable between broadcast TV, online services, on-demand services, corporate desktop and post-production.

As Viasat's audience is spread across such a wide geographic area, the majority of channels are broadcast with multiple audio languages (up to 9 simultaneously) and multiple subtitle services. This provides technical challenges on top of the political and regulatory challenges normally associated with multi-regional broadcast.

**GENERAL BRIEF**

To ensure availability of technical systems and infrastructure providing 24x7 television broadcast, post production and ancillary services.

To manage engineering projects at a high level (generally Programme Manager level involvement) and delegate projects and project tasks within the engineering team to ensure delivery on time and within budget constraints.

Design and cost new installations and system improvements.

Day to day management of engineering team including work allocation, recruitment, freelance and contract hiring, budgeting etc.

Creation and implementation of new procedures and documentation standards.

**MAJOR ACHEIVEMENTS**

The on-time and under-budget design, build and launch of Viasat's first HD channel, including ingest facility and transmission system, all based on an HD/SD simulcast model.

Build and launch of TV6 Hungary in just 6 weeks from project approval.

Integration and installation of the UK's (Europe's?) largest single Final Cut Pro farm (57 seats) with 'edit-in-place' shared storage and a fully file-based work-flow utilising Viasat's central digital media archive and Media Asset Management system.

Design of a common digital media delivery architecture to include XML based delivery receipt functionality. The architecture was initially designed to support three particular digital media delivery intermediaries, but also to be flexible and expandable to any other supplier.

**KEY TECHNOLOGIES** (This list is not exhaustive)

Omneon *Spectrum* video servers, Harris *D-Series* play-out automation, Pharos *Mediator* media management, Ideas Unlimited *Content Probe* compliance recording, Miranda *Imagestore* branding, *Final Cut Pro*, Storagetek archive, Front Porch Digital *DIVA* archive management, Screen subtitling, Evertz multiviewers, Quartz and Leitch routers, PC & Mac (incl. the usual PC office software applications plus *AutoCAD*, *MS Project* and *Visio*)

## Previous Employment:

July 2003 –  
April 2007

### [MTV Networks Europe](#). London, U.K. **Transmission Engineering Manager**

#### GENERAL BRIEF

To ensure the provision of 24x7 broadcast services to MTV Networks Europe and their clients, maintaining the highest possible levels of technical continuity and the day-to-day management of all associated broadcast engineering staff.

#### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Management of a team of twelve engineers comprising 8 shift workers and 4 day / project engineers.

Overseeing all broadcast systems ensuring service continuity of approximately 60 24x7 TV channels from 4 transmission areas, 3 studio facilities, post production facilities, a master control room, and other associated technical areas.

Overseeing the installation of new systems and expansion of existing systems for new channel launches, channel enhancements, and technically complex live shows.

Co-ordination, motivation, and development of staff in an ever changing and expanding engineering environment, including annual appraisals and objective setting, and day-to-day work allocation and prioritisation.

Definition and implementation of problem solving policies and procedures.

Forming part of a core team responsible for the ongoing design and development of all broadcast technology areas and systems.

Liaison with all areas of the company and external clients on both technical and strategic subjects at all levels.

Working with the Head of Operations and Engineering to ensure the department operates within budgetary constraints.

Management of the implementation of new technological developments.

#### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Overseeing the faultless transmission of, and managing the team responsible for, the transmission of four successive MTV European Music Awards (2003-2006) – including the multi-venue Rome event - with a potential audience of one billion people, and including MTV Europe's first HD broadcast.

The successful, on time, and on budget launch of numerous new channels within MTV Networks Europe and the Showtime Network including VH2, Paramount Comedy 2, Nickleodeon European, MTV Ireland, MTV Sweden, MTV Portugal.

Specification and functional design assistance for Audio Description decoder/mixer card in Axon Synapse range in conjunction with Axon and the BBC.

The design and specification of new EBU teletext subtitling functionality on the *Publitrone Indigo* platform including integration of control protocol. This was then implemented across MTV's Sky and Freeview platform channels (MTV, VH1 and TMF brands).

Design and implementation of common control protocol for on-screen interactive graphics systems. This was launched across numerous MTV, VH1 and TMF channels across Europe with two distinct interactive entertainment systems (Yarosa Entertainment and Siren).

The recruitment and retention of a very skilled and motivated engineering team, maintaining a full head count for the first time in many years.

Twice overseeing transmission engineering and studio support for the launch of the MTV UK flagship show 'TRL', once from local studios and once from a new facility in London's Leicester Square.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I was also a member of the 'Playout and Broadcast Taskforce' set up to investigate and make recommendations on the future direction of the German music TV channels after MTV's acquisition of Viva Media.

Core member of the team set up to investigate, plan, and implement the replacement and expansion of video server and automation systems within MTV Networks Europe's main playout area (serving 30+ 24x7 channels).

## Previous Employment (continued):

January 2003 – [MTV Networks Europe](#), London, U.K. **Broadcast Engineering Supervisor**  
July 2003

### GENERAL BRIEF

Ensuring all technical areas and services are maintained to the highest engineering standards. Responsible for team and its outputs, reporting directly to the Transmission Engineering Manager.

### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

To provide high level engineering support to all Broadcast Services equipment to ensure the highest possible levels of technical and operational continuity to the MTVNE Network.

Supervise projects to ensure their completion, on time and to the highest standards, as set by the Engineering Management.

Develop both Junior and Broadcast Engineers through continual training and support.

Provide proactive feed back to MTV Broadcast Services (via the Engineering Managers) of technical support issues, potential problem areas or advancements in technology that may be beneficial to MTV.

Liaison with both internal and external clients for notification of fault conditions and their resolution.

To be responsible for the completion of all administration, documentation and shift reports.

Maintain and implement relevant policies and procedures and help with their production and ensure acceptance.

Provide detailed high-level Engineering input into new and existing systems development.

In conjunction with Engineering managers provide Personal Development Review input and objectives setting for the shift and junior engineering staff.

Take responsibility for prioritisation and resolution of all faults that occur on shift.

### Some detail on main technical responsibilities:

- Maintenance of Broadcast Transmission Facilities (including Omnibus automation, Pinnacle/HP Video servers, Sony LMS and Flexicart).
- Maintenance of Post Production Facilities.
- Maintenance of VT Dubbing Facilities.
- Operation and maintenance of Broadcast Routers.
- Operation and maintenance of Compression / Multiplex systems.
- Operation and maintenance of Signal Distribution/conversion equipment.
- Operation and maintenance of Talkback / IFB Systems.
- Operation and maintenance of Vision / Audio Mixers e.g. GVG, Philips.
- Operation and maintenance of graphics equipment e.g. Quantel, Publitrone, Miranda Oxtel.
- Support of Satellite based broadcasting systems.
- Use of PC based drawing packages e.g. VidCAD, AutoCAD.
- MCR duties including lines routing and liaison with other broadcasters and service providers around the world.

Approximately 50 channels are broadcast from the MTV centre, and this position involves shift work to ensure these broadcasts are maintained 24/7.

## Previous Employment (continued):

October 1999 – [NDS Ltd.](#), Southampton, Hants. U.K., **System Specialist**  
December 2003

This work involved integration (system design, build, and configuration) of complex digital broadcast systems. NDS supplies various solutions for broadcast systems control, and 'secure delivery of content' (conditional access). It involved both lab and on site work and was essentially a more in-depth expansion of the role I carried out in Field Service, with the added responsibilities of project management and initial installation.

Additional responsibilities involved initial customer familiarisation with the system and its operation, and system design work to make the system actually work to the broadcasters' requirements, and within the specifications of the standards bodies such as DVB, ATSC, and MPEG.

The role also involved integrating with third party systems that provide, for example, broadcast automation, subscriber management, programme scheduling etc.

As well as this technical aspect of the work, the role required project management skills, and in some cases team/personnel management.

### **Some third party systems providers I worked with include:**

Louth Automation (Harris), MediaGenix, Tandberg Television (previously NDS Broadcast), IBM (video servers), Harmonic (Divicom), Italtel, Pace, OpenTV, and ADB.

### **Some broadcasters I worked with in this role included:**

- Madritel (Spain)

Spain's first digital cable operator, operating out of Madrid with a 12 multiplex, approximately 50 channel systems incorporating an NDS conditional access system with pay-per-view as well as subscription based services. (Tandberg compression system)
- OTE (Greece)

Investigation of set-top-box EPG issues, and general system support on site in Athens (2000).  
Integration and build of new commercial broadcast system comprising four transport streams and approximately 50 channels including interactive channels, subscription channels, and pay-per-view channels (2002). (Tandberg compression system)
- RTN (USA)

Build and integration of a Tandberg TV compression system with NDS 'Data Broadcast Network' equipment for this Pittsburgh based broadcaster of enhanced educational TV services. With particular responsibility for the compression system build.
- Digita Oy (Finland)

Finland's first digital terrestrial broadcaster. Initially a two multiplex system carrying a small number of channels, but the complexity is due to increase over the next 18 months as the project moves into the later phases and this has had to be planned for from the beginning. Following the initial installation, I also managed system upgrades and expansion. (Tandberg compression system)
- GloboCabo (Brazil)

Before the economic crash, this was to be potentially the largest digital cable broadcaster in South America. The system was to include distributed headends and both digital and analogue channels. My role was that of system integrator for the stream management system and SI generation. A working trial system was delivered. (Harmonic compression)
- Stream (Italy)

During a 6 month secondment to the customer's site in Rome, I took the role of senior account engineer responsible for the day to day support of a complex 'triple-crypt' conditional access system. As the senior engineer I was also responsible for establishing procedures, shift patterns, and handling relations with the customer. (Tandberg compression system)

## Previous Employment (continued):

February 1997 - [NDS Ltd.](#), Southampton, Hants. U.K., **Field Service Engineer**

October 1999

Worldwide field support and telephone support for digital television compression and broadcasting equipment.

Including faultfinding, upgrades, field repair, NDS (now Tandberg Television) and third party integration, fault investigation, installation, and reconfiguration. Most of this work is carried out on live revenue sensitive systems. Also presenting training courses for both colleagues and customers.

During 1998 I spent four and a half months in California setting up the US support operation. This involved establishing procedures for fault reporting, logging and tracking; equipment repair and tracking; arranging engineers for site visits; acquiring equipment for engineering labs; and the general running of the support operation until a permanent support manager was hired for the region.

I also maintained the department intranet site (which involved HTML scripting, shell scripting, Perl5 programming, cgi programming, and system administration), and sat on the company Intranet Steering Group.

Through the various aspects of the job, the following operating systems were used - SunOS / Solaris, Linux, HP Unix, Windows 95 and NT.

### Customers I worked with were very many, but included:

Fox Television, NBC, BSkyB, BiB, NTL, Channel 5, Star TV, SkyLA, EBU/UER, MultiChoice, Tele+, Canal+, France Telecom, MTV, Bezeq, DMX, TCI, Castle Transmission International, NTV Russia, Matav, Foxtel, BT, BBC, Reuters, Deutsche Welle. With specific responsibility for *Globecast N.E.* and *Stream, Italy*.

### Systems supported include:

Direct-to-Home broadcast systems (satellite, cable, and digital terrestrial) with both standard and high definition (see [achievements](#)); Data Broadcast Networks (multicast and unicast); contribution and distribution systems; satellite news gathering and mobile contribution systems; broadcast and multiplex control systems; conditional access systems (both NDS and third party vendors).

**Note:** The digital compression hardware business has since been sold to [Tandberg Television](#), for information of the systems I supported during my time in this position, you should visit their website.

June 1993 -  
February 1997

[Border Television](#), Carlisle, Cumbria, U.K. **Technical Operator / Engineer**

### Wide range of engineering duties including:

VT engineering, dubbing, editing, vision engineering (live programmes, 5 remote controlled cameras), sound engineering (live programmes), sound assisting (pre-records), graphics, installations and maintenance, MCR/Transmission operations (including vision mixing on local news bulletins), compliance and technical previewing.

Also PC/network support and development (Unix, Mac and DOS/Windows, TCP/IP Ethernet), and telephone exchange maintenance.

### Equipment worked with includes:

Grass Valley Master 21 presentation mixer, Sony BetacamSP VCRs, Sony DigiBetacam VCRs, Sony 1" VTRs, Rank Cintel Mk3 Telecine, Quantel Paintbox, Aston Motif/Ethos, Aston 3B, ESS3 framestore, Sony and JVC studio and ENG cameras (CCD and tube), BASYS/AVID newsroom automation systems, ProBel video switchers, ACE video mixers, audio desks, audio carts, disk carts, test equipment including waveform monitors and vectorscopes, talkback systems (local, and remote via telephone lines), Micron radio microphones. (*This is not intended to be an exhaustive list*)

I also had limited exposure to non-linear editing systems (Avid and Lightworks), video servers (Tektronic) during trials of these systems, but I moved to NDS before Border made the purchases.

1986 - June  
1993

Various part-time and holiday work

Including:

Clerical assistant (local authority), sales assistant, ski instructor (groups and individuals, adults and children), postman, process worker, warehouse worker, and nightclub DJ (actually ran a night in a nightclub for two years, see positions of authority below).

## Other Information

### Interests:

My main sporting interest is snow skiing, a sport which I have enjoyed since the age of 6. Since then I have competed on a national level for both my school and University, and instructed at my local dry ski slope for around 7 years.

I also fly light aircraft and ride a motorcycle purely for pleasure. Among my other 'part-time' interests I would include travel and DIY. I have also completed a couple of parachute jumps - intact!

I have computers at home which I use for 3D graphics and animation, video editing (Avid Liquid, Adobe Premiere), music, programming, and web publishing / design (see <http://www.gonmad.co.uk>)

Through my web work and computer programming I have gained experience in C, C++, HTML, DHTML, cgi, Perl, JavaScript, ASP, PHP, and MySQL.

### Non-professional positions of authority:

#### **Race Captain, Lancaster University Ski Club.**

As captain, I arranged training sessions and teams for racing on a national level with the 'Kings Ski Club' national league. During my term, I took the team to the national finals after qualifying through our regional division.

#### **Live Events Manager, University Radio Bailrigg.**

The Live Events Manager was responsible for providing equipment and personnel for any live events (discos, rallies, and live promotions) arranged by the University radio station (or other student union body). Responsibility extended to servicing and purchasing sound and lighting equipment to provide the best service available on campus.

During my tenure, this position also involved the running of a student night at a local nightclub. This night was so successful that the Student Union nightclub suffered a major loss of customers, and tried to close down the radio station as a result! It also involved organising a one off event for 1300 people from scratch to promote the radio station.

#### **Vice President, Lancaster University Ski Club.**

This position involved the general duties of running the university ski club, and assisting the president. As well as co-ordinating meetings and communication between members, it also involved arranging the annual club trip to France (for around 40 people).

### Achievements:

#### **Obtaining my PPL**

In April 2001 I finally obtained my Private Pilots' License, something I had wanted to do for many years but had been unable to complete due to work commitments.

#### **WXYZ, WJBK, & KTLA.**

In October 1998 I installed and put on air the U.S.A.'s first fully operational High-Definition digital TV service. The station was WXYZ, an ABC affiliate in Detroit, Mi. The system installed was an NDS E5810 encoder/compression system running at a 720p60 resolution.

This was followed two and a half days later by WJBK Fox 2, Detroit's second fully operational HD digital TV station (although they were actually first to broadcast an HD digital signal from pre-encoded material).

A couple of weeks later, I also installed California's first HD digital TV service - Los Angeles' KTLA 5, a Warner Brother's affiliate, and part of the Tribune broadcasting group. This station was the only station to broadcast direct to the 1998 SMPTE (Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers) Conference in Pasadena, Ca. just prior to the nation-wide official launch date for digital TV on 1st November. The broadcast showed the historic return to space for senator John Glenn in the live Shuttle launch from the Kennedy Space center in Florida. It was broadcast in 1080i resolution, the highest resolution available at the time from any digital TV system.



Additional information and recommendations can be found on Linked-In:  
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/dangibson>

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the e-mail address above.  
Thank you for your interest.

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