



ULSTER TV – A 1st FOR STRAND

Strand has been in the business of studio lighting since television began in 1936. But for Strand, the Ulster TV project was a first in more ways than one.

Ulster TV planned to increase its output for the new licence period and designed an extension to Havelock House which included a new 2,500 sq. ft. studio for general programme production. At the first meeting with the architect, McAlister, Armstrong & Partners on the 28th January 1992, the brief was simple and clear; 'to produce a studio, ready and on air by 1st January 1993'.

The team from Strand, fronted by Alan Luxford and Ian Sim, cooperated with the design from the outset. The dimensions of the studio were given, and work started immediately on the lighting layout, structural steelwork - which included the cyc track and gallery - and the electrical distribution.

As the design work progressed, Robert McCourt, Controller of Technical Operations (Ulster TV), and the architects regularly met to refine the proposal. The design team's structural consultant and the contractors liaised with Ian and Alan who shared their experience and helped develop ideas until final drawings were approved.

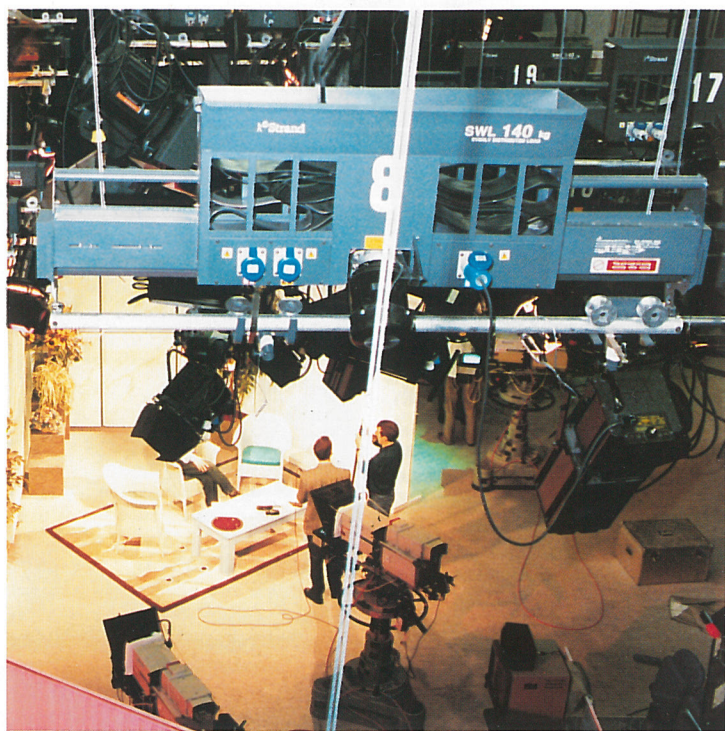
The building was rising from its foundations. By the end of June the contract was awarded, and Strand's Peter Daffarn became Project Manager for the supply and installation of control, dimming, luminaires and suspension - the first all-Strand studio to include self-climbing hoists built in Strand's Kirkcaldy factory.

The studio is equipped with a Gemini 2+ control, 206 EC90 MD dimmers, 97 Quartzcolor and Strand luminaires, 41 self-climbing hoists with custom control system, and a cyc system (comprising track, cloth tensioning system, leading edge frames and lighting rail).

Strand was represented by its Belfast-based main distributor, GER, and A.S. Green & Co. Ltd had the task of installing the equipment beginning 26th October. The studio was finished four weeks later, after a breathtaking eleven months!

The first live transmission from the studio on 8th January 1993 was the weekly 90-minute chat, music and live entertainment show, *Kelly*.

Two views of the new 2500 sq. ft main studio at Ulster TV equipped with 41 self-climbing hoists and 97 Quartzcolor luminaires.



Photograph by Kenneth McNally



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RTM MALAYSIA

Glantre Engineering's Matthew Tonks was faced with the view (bottom left) of RTM Malaysia's studio in Kuala Lumpur before starting on the engineering design, supply and commissioning of the equipment which has transformed the studio into a modern facility.

Along with Strand Lighting's Hong Kong office, and K.C. Lim of local contractors Transtel Technology Ltd, Matthew's team set to work to replace the basic pipe and trunking structure (electricians walked along the trunking to rig and connect the luminaires with only the ceiling rods for support!) with new steelwork, electrical distribution, 49 Strand self-climbing hoists, and a full rig of Quartzcolor studio luminaires.



One of Strand's self climbing hoists as installed at both Ulster TV and RTM Malaysia



RTM Malaysia's studio in Kuala Lumpur after its transformation by Glantre Engineering and Strand...

...and the ageing luminaires and steelwork prior to the work commencing.

