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Contemporary Research Keeps Helicopter News Broadcasts In Tune

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The Contemporary Research 232-ATSC HDTV Tuner is standard equipment for manufacturers of news gathering helicopters. Able to get on scene quickly and hover, helicopter ENG is a popular tool for TV news stations – and an application going through its own digital transition.

The ability to tune in to the local channel's broadcast is critical to the reporter and crew in the helicopter, keeping them in sync with the program, so they can anticipate the take for the shot and the hand-off from the studio's announcer to the chopper reporter. In the past, CR's 232-series analog TV tuners have been handling the task, and now suppliers are upgrading to the 232-ATSC HDTV Tuner.

"Employing digital TV is part science, part art, and mostly trial and error," states one company's video engineer. "Bristling with advanced avionics and HD ENG gear, a helicopter is a hotbed of EMI to begin with. The spinning rotors overhead add another layer of interference, and the metal body of the chopper can block reception as well. Add to that the fact that ATSC was never designed for moving TV reception, and you've got a big challenge. Our solutions are always evolving as we experiment with placement of multiple high-end antennas for the best reception. Once we hover for the shot, we can lock in to the station's signal and manage the broadcast in full HD."

And you thought ground-bound TV studio video integration was hard....

About Contemporary Research

Contemporary Research designs and creates solutions for an HDTV world, offering cutting-edge products, HDTV display control, digital signage, and tuning. In addition, CR supports a proven line of analog TV tuners, closed-captioning tools, as well as commercial and educational media systems. For more information about Contemporary Research products, visit us on the web at www.crwww.com or call (888) 972-2728.

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