"The challenge for us was to manage the implementation of the field-proven EVS technology for the ingest and the management of all our sport media while interoperating with MICADO, our integrated logging and metadata management system based on standard IT technology."

Michel Feuillye
Sports Project Manager at France2

With five national channels, France 2, France 3, France 4, France 5 and France Ô, six thematic channels, an international broadcast network covered by RFO (France Outre Mer Network), and the largest editing and distribution centre in the country, France Télévisions is the leading broadcast organisation in France today.

France2 is the main channel in term of audience (slightly under 20% market share). It offers a large range of entertainment programs including TV news, cultural reporting, and sports broadcasting.
The technology department of France2 decided to reorganise the entire sport production workflow of its Parisian broadcast center. The system is dedicated to the production of a large number of sport programs, including live shows, highlights, reports, and more. The main objective was to improve the speed at which editors and journalists would be able to access relevant information, in order to improve the relevance and quality of live and near-live sport programs.

Based on a long and fruitful partnership with EVS, including the production of live sport events like Tennis French Open in Roland Garros, the Tour de France, and Paris Dakar, France2 once again appointed EVS to collaborate closely on establishing an integrated workflow solution, combining EVS’ instant tapeless production solutions with the existing and future information system technology developed by France2.

The resulting workflow needed to meet the following requirements:

- Manage a full online broadcast service including multiple feeds ingest.
- Increase productivity and quality.
- Guarantee full access to media with the highest level of reliability.
- Allow easy management of the recording process.
- Integrate with the metadata management system put in place by France2.

"The reliability of EVS solutions was a key factor in our decision process to build an integrated sport media server.”

Bruno Tézenas du Montcel
Head of Technology and Exploitation at France2
The system is based on a combination between the IBC award-winning instant tapeless technology of EVS and the metadata solution previously developed by France2.

The EVS solution consists of three 6-channel XT[2] production servers controlled by one IPDirector to permanently loop-record all matches. A 5TB XStore[2] storage system, based on SATA technology, is used to mass store all the matches. XFile software is in place to manage the transfer and streaming operation between the different post production stations. All EVS devices are connected to the XNet[2], EVS’ high bandwidth production network system.

Metadata describing the action during each match are created by France Télévisions’ operators using their script solution, called MICADO, based on XML file-logging system and the database of the IPDirector content management system.
During live events, satellite feeds (multiple football or tennis matches, for instance) are ingested live on the three XT[2] production servers in loop-recording mode under the control of the content management system, IPDirector. Based on the streaming application of the EVS XFile software, live content is imported in real-time on the Avid Unity and made available to all Avid Media Composer stations. Editors can even work on the content while it is still in import mode.

Using piece of software developed in-house, named MICADO, France2 operators can add keywords and descriptive metadata that are associated to the live ingested feeds based on the time code. New metadata are created as standard XML files and gathered on a centralized database.

Using the Avid web-service system, XML files, including keywords and additional metadata, are instantly imported on the Avid Interplay system. All imported metadata becomes immediately visible on the Avid editing timeline as locator-associated to time code.

For the preparation of specific highlights or reports, post production editors needed to be able to retrieve specific media available either on the XT[2] production server or stored on the XStore[2] near-line platform. Based on the logging information created during the live recording by the France2 MICADO logging application, EVS IPDirectors can be further used by France2 editors and journalists to browse the content of networked XT[2] servers, using keywords and metadata.

For instance, the editor can organise a search based on the best action of a player through the IPDirector browsing station, and the system will automatically locate all associated media. Once retrieved, the editor can create a short clip on the IPDirector and transfer it locally on an Avid station to start the final edit. The transfer process is managed at four to six times faster than real-time, allowing extremely efficient and fast operations. The editor can also access the STB XStore[2] near-line storage platform for researching older media. Thanks to the XStore[2]'s transparent workflow management, the editor can directly retrieve the stored media and create clips to be further transferred to a craft editing station.

“Thanks to the IPDirector, I just pick up the content I need and transfer it on my editing station, which allows me to prepare my edit step by step during the day. Then, my edit can easily be adapted and finalised when the journalist arrives just before going on air.”

Jean-Jacques Brouart
Chief Editor on Avid at France2
Benefits:

- Fully tapeless workflow, allowing media access at any stage of the production, either in a live or near-live environment.
- Full integration between EVS production systems, France2 logging application, and Avid post production.
- Keywords and descriptive metadata imported as locators on the Avid timeline.
- EVS browsing application based on keywords and metadata for fast and easy media research.
- Clip transfer management between EVS and Avid at speeds four to six times faster than real-time.
- Transparent access to near-line storage platform.
XT(2) Known for its extreme reliability, versatility, and incomparable speed, the XT[2] production server is the basis for any broadcasters and production facilities looking to streamline their production workflows, from sport trucks to studios, and from live to near-live events.

IP Director The IPDirector is an integrated suite of software allowing versatile control of the XT[2] server. Running on a Windows-based workstation, IPDirector allows the user to easily ingest, log, manage, search, track, edit, create clips and highlights, browse, and ultimately playout any video or audio content instantly.

XFile Completely compatible with most third-party storage solutions, EVS’ XFile software is the perfect gateway solution for any production facility in need of seamless integration between production, post production, and any third-party solutions. Its integration with EVS removable and central storage platforms makes it a flexible solution for media archiving.