

For release Monday, February 23, 2009 9AM PST

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**81<sup>st</sup> Academy Awards® use cutting-edge technology to save time, energy, speed production**

HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA: Location Connect ([locationconnect.com](http://locationconnect.com)) announced today that, along with its partners NthAir and Loea Corporation, the company provided very high-speed (1 Gigabit/second) networking between the Kodak Theatre broadcast campus for the 81<sup>st</sup> Academy Awards and Chainsaw.

“This connection allowed us to edit and fine-tune playback material much more quickly, without couriers, shuttle drives, tape, or other media,” said Tad Scriptor, Engineer-In-Charge for the broadcast. “This is another step in 100% tapeless media-independent workflow for the Oscars®. It also shows the Academy’s commitment to the cutting edge of television production. Editing of the background elements was more cost-efficient and responsive to the broadcast’s needs. It also completely avoided traffic delays, ‘disks on scooters’, and the worries when material is moved on physical media.”

The color-corrected, sweetened and edited background cues were sent directly from Chainsaw’s edit bays to EVS playback servers at the Hollywood and Highland broadcast campus via Chainsaw’s Avid Transfer Manager. Editors at Chainsaw could also pull material directly from the EVS at the Kodak for further editing, then transfer it right back to the EVS, even when the EVS operators had left for the day. The final audio/video cues shipped over the link (1,500+) were played back during the broadcast, both directly on air and to the numerous display devices on the Kodak Theatre stage.

“The link worked great, even during heavy rain,” said Jonathan Aroesty, President, Playback Innovations, who also worked as the primary playback operator during the Oscar Telecast. “The edit staff at Chainsaw were constantly using the link—in fact, it’s been in continuous use since 20 minutes after it was installed! It’s saved editor’s time, allowed faster turnaround, and quicker updates. It’s saved many labor hours on site —We have been able to

concentrate on getting cues ready for playback instead of moving, ingesting, and logging files and videotapes. The show's playback was better due to this tremendous improvement in efficiency.”

Playback Innovations ([playbackinnovations.com](http://playbackinnovations.com)) also provided the software required to manage the files encoded in the Avid DNxHD® codec directly between the editing systems and the EVS servers. Their software also allows more versatile control of multiple EVS servers during live events.

The high-speed link between the Oscars broadcast compound and Chainsaw used Loea Corporation's ([loeacom.com](http://loeacom.com)) L1000 Gigabit digital millimeter wave radios, interfaced via standard Ethernet over fiber (1000FX) to both destinations. At the Oscars, this configuration was completely transparent to the users—they used methods and applications already familiar to them, with no training necessary. File transfer times were 2-3x faster than realtime, a significant timesaver for 720p59.94 HD files, which can run to gigabytes per minute. Since the link was 100% Ethernet, other services—IP intercoms, Windows file transfer, Voice Over IP, system updates—could run simultaneously, with full traffic shaping and no interference.

“The ability to send from any of our edit suites directly to the playout servers at the Kodak Theater more than a mile away was an incredible time saver for us,” said Mike Polito of Chainsaw. “It enabled us to focus on doing our best work while not being concerned about the logistics of delivery.”

Location Connect also announced that the service would be available for future video productions nationwide. “Whether connecting the Oscars to an edit house a mile from the Kodak or two sites collaborating across the country, our company can provide links of all capacities, quickly and reliably,” said Alex Pournelle, VP of Business Development, Location Connect. “Along with our partners NthAir ([nthair.com](http://nthair.com)) and Loea, we've demonstrated a new tool for HD collaboration, editing and EVS use. It's a great addition to our existing 'Internet anywhere, anytime, any event, any notice' service. We look forward to collaborating with Playback Innovations on future live broadcast productions.”

### **About Location Connect**

Location Connect ([www.locationconnect.com](http://www.locationconnect.com)) is in its tenth year of providing on-site, hands-on, high-tech, high-touch 100% support services for events and venues nationwide. They were the on-site networking (Internet connectivity, networking, computers, phones, fax, teleconferencing, office electric) provider for YouTube's YouTube Live! event ([www.youtube.com/live](http://www.youtube.com/live)) at Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA. They have supported the Pepcom and ShowStoppers PR event companies since 1999. Among their other clients have been Sony, Lenovo, Intel, Twiistup, King Dahl Productions, UCLA, the AFCI, S.P. Richards and Sunset Lane Productions.

### **About Playback Innovations**

Playback Innovations is a leading-edge technology company specializing in the area of broadcast television. Contact: Jonathan Aroesty, Playback Innovations, LLC, [jonathan@playbackinnovations.com](mailto:jonathan@playbackinnovations.com) or 310-345-9232.

### **About Nth Air**

NthAir is a wireless broadband service provider deploying WiMax and other wireless communications technologies for permanent and temporary installations in multiple cities throughout the US. Contact: Craig Niemeyer, President, Nth Air, [sales@nthair.com](mailto:sales@nthair.com) or 1-877-247-9285.

### **About Loea**

Loea Corporation builds robust, reliable, widely-used gigabit wireless links which are FCC, NTIA and TIC certified. Contact Doug Eisold, VP Sales, Loea at [deisold@loecom.com](mailto:deisold@loecom.com) or (858) 646-5300.

### **Acknowledgements**

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