



IBC Newsletter 2005

Neither thunder storms, snow blizzards or high winds (up to 100 Knots) have prevented Skylink from delivering a high quality mobile video relay service at a wide range of Outside Broadcasts. From cycling to marathons, Skylink has continued to deliver live pictures when all other airborne platforms have been grounded due to bad weather.

Cycling

Tour de Romandie – April 2005



The pack of riders emerge from a tunnel in the hilly Des Sagnettes region in western Switzerland during the second stage of the Tour de Romandie ProTour cycling race, to and from Fleurier. There was a real mix of weather during the race, with the Skylink PC-12 at times exposed to wind speeds up to 100 Knots. This made life a little uncomfortable for the airborne operator, but the experienced pilots were able to keep on course and relay all 5 video links reliably to the ground receive site. Skylink enabled savings to be made in the event's production costs as the pictures could be relayed to the finish area without the need for satellite mid-point links.

"The quality of the Tour de Suisse transmission has again been improved"

Sergio Gaerosa
TPC Producer, Tour de Suisse



Pilatus PC-12 taking off with relay antennas and equipment installed

Marathon

London Marathon – April 2005



"The best live coverage ever!"

High acclaim for the BBC's coverage of the 25th London Marathon. Following on from last year's two uplink test, Skylink relayed all four motorbike uplinks via the one aircraft flying at 20,000ft above the city. Without the need to refuel, all four motorbike feeds could be offered without interruption to the viewers at home via the BBC's interactive service. The four motorbikes had the freedom to go anywhere along the course, and with 2-input diversity on the aircraft the pictures were robust even in the most built up areas.

Cycling

Tour de Suisse – June 2005



This was the third consecutive year that Skylink has worked alongside TPC to relay the live video links for this prestigious event and each year, more links are relayed by the Skylink aircraft. For this 69th Tour de

Suisse, the PC-12 relayed images not only from the motorbike cameras, but also the helcams allowing them to fly at low altitudes capturing the best possible images of the race, spectators and spectacular scenery.

Skiing

Lauberhorn Downhill – Jan 2005



To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the longest downhill ski race on the World Cup tour, SF DRS broadcast a live 12 hour 'SF Special' from Wengen. The long flight endurance of the PC-12 enabled Skylink to relay live pictures throughout the day with just a single 35 minute break required for refuelling. Uplinks from a skidoo, a ski train, a helicopter and a handheld were relayed directly by the PC-12, with the resulting program giving a unique insight into the television production of live ski racing.

Next Year

As more producers and program makers experience the reliability of Skylink, the PC-12s will be relaying more links from even more events next year. If you want all of your pictures, all of the time and in all weathers, then visit www.skylink.aero to see how we can help you achieve your broadcast ambitions.