

ARCTEK Satellite Productions has launched its latest satellite encoding truck, ARCTEK Gray. ARCTEK Gray is built on the 2021 Sprinter 3500 chassis and is the 2nd encoding uplink truck built for ARCTEK in the last 12 months (ARCTEK Black Cband June 2021).

ARCTEK Gray is a KU uplink truck capable of 1080p, HDR or 4K transmission and monitoring with MPEG4 and HEVC compression. Like ARCTEK Black, ARCTEK Gray is an ultra-capable truck with transmission options of KU-band satellite, fiber, or video over IP via the IP transmission backbone. ARCTEK Gray also has production capabilities.

“ARCTEK Gray is the sister truck to our ARCTEK Magenta truck which we built in 2017.” says **ARCTEK owner Brian Stanley**. “It gives us the ability to everything from single backhauls to 12 source REMI’s as well as multi-camera, split or world feed type productions, all on the efficient Sprinter platform.”

ARCTEK Gray is equipped with 12 Adtec encoders: two EN81’s and an afiniti housing ten HEVC and Mpeg4 encoders and the mux.

Originally ARCTEK Gray was planned as a re-chassis of an older KU truck, but it was quickly realized that most of the equipment was nearing end of life, so instead of keeping that gear alive ARCTEK decided to build an entirely new truck from the ground up.

“When we looked at what we wanted to keep from the older truck there wasn’t much. We decided to go all in with ARCTEK Gray equipping it with a new dish, router, fiber at the I/O, new generator and monitors, it’s a completely new truck.”

Stanley says, this truck has a simple, straightforward design and can send video via satellite, ASI or IP back to the network. ARCTEK Gray can handle it all. “ARCTEK Gray is essentially an encoding truck with a redundant KU-band transmission chain. It’s one of the cleanest and most flexible trucks we’ve ever built.” Stanley adds.

ARCTEK chose to go with the Sat-lite 4 port KU band 1.8M carbon fiber antenna paired with 400 watt TWTAs. Inside ARCTEK Gray has an AJA router, and Mackie audio board and Marshall audio monitoring. Videoscope and bit stream analyzer is handled by Tektronix.

“Our clients trust us with their highly produced sports product” says Stanley. “We owe it to them to continue to invest in the latest and greatest encoding and uplink technology to ensure their events get on the air, flawlessly.”

Frontline Communications once again handled the complete integration from start to finish. Frontline has built all of ARCTEK’s trucks since 1998; a partnership approaching 25 years.

ARCTEK Satellite Productions has the newest satellite uplink fleet in the country. With 6 satellite trucks, 4 KU band and 2 Cband, ARCTEK isn't afraid to roll coast to coast to get the job done. ARCTEK likes to say noting