USER REPORT

TFC2K: 'Beefy,' Broadband And Unbothered

Bext Stainless-Steel Antenna Offers Durability And Ease of Broadband Design

by Wayne Johnson
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STERLING, Colo. Our company, Media Logic, operates four radio stations in northeastern Colorado.

When it came time to build our new 50 kW FM station in Sterling, we had no hesitation and went with **Bext** equipment.

KSRX(FM) is now happily on the air as 97.5 BOB FM. In addition to the FM transmitter, Bext provided us with the necessary FM high-power antenna and three sets of STLs. Bext also worked with us beforehand with the configuration and gave us useful information to make certain choices, such as the right transmitter/antenna gain combination to reach our 50 kW ERP, and the most cost-effective way to resolve our multiple-hop STL set up.

Wayne Johnson tweaks the Bext STL at KSRX.

The antenna we selected is the Bext 8-bay model TFC2K. This is a broadband, beefy, stainless-steel circularly polarized model.

We liked the fact that it is broadband because we felt that something broadband is not likely to go out of tune. Tuned antennas may go slightly out of tune over time, or tend to be more affected by metal items around them. Also, the effect of ice on a broadband antenna is less severe than on a tuned antenna, an important consideration for a transmitter site like ours.

Last but not least, a broadband antenna would allow us, should we ever wish to do so, to combine two or more stations into the same antenna, using FM combiners, for which Bext is known.

Also, the stainless steel material used sounded to us as probably the most durable metal for something exposed to the harsh elements at that site. The installation was straightforward, and we liked the rugged brackets that came with each antenna bay.

Once in place and after power was applied, the performance of the antenna was good. No reflected power, which was impressive for a broadband antenna, and very good and consistent signal coverage overall.

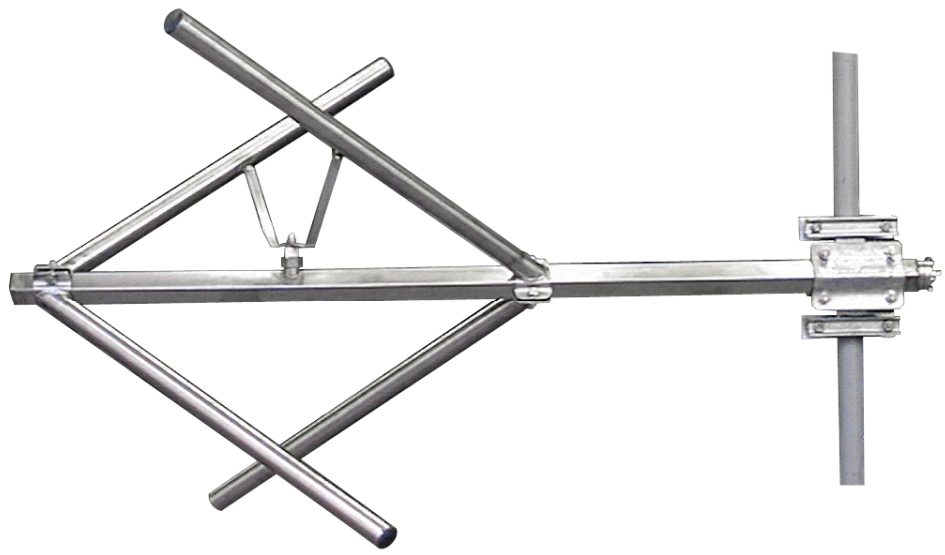
To bring our content to the site, we needed one set of STLs, and two more sets of STLs to go from our studio to this same site and, through a second hop, reach another site for another one of our stations that is not in line of sight with our studio. We accomplished all of this with three Bext LD STLs.

Two STL transmitters were installed at the studio; two STL receivers at the main site; one more STL transmitter at the main site pointing to the second site; and finally, an STL receiver at the second site.

The STL installation also was simple and straightforward. The Bext STLs are programmable on the front panel, so all we had to do was dial in our frequency.

The STLs immediately locked onto the programmed frequency and quietly started doing their job. None of them seemed to be bothered in any way by the presence of other STLs at the same locations. The audio quality is excellent for all of them, certainly a factor especially for a multiple-hop STL like ours, where there was no audio degradation despite going through more than one hop.

For more information, including pricing, contact Bext at (888) 239-8462 or visit www.bext.com.



A one bay TFC2K antenna from BEXT

View all the BEXT antenna line at:
www.bext.com -> products->antennas