

# Datavideo provides remote camera solution for *Gogglebox*



**REFLECTING THE CURRENT STATE:**  
Behind the scenes during the creation of *Gogglebox*



Datavideo PTC-150 remote camera and Datavideo RMC-180 camera controller

*Gogglebox* is in its 7th series in the UK, with the 6th series having averaged approximately 4.3 million UK viewers by the end of 2015.

The 10-part local version has been commissioned by the SONY Channel and will be produced by partners Eject Media's Stephan Le Roux and Picture Tree's Gary King.

Says Sonja Underwood, Sony Pictures Television Territory Director– Africa Channels: “*Gogglebox* is a fantastic show and we believe that its humour and diversity makes it perfect for South African audiences. It is not your typical television show and we believe our first local production will become a firm viewer favourite.” Executive Producer Stephan Le Roux concurs: “We believe that we have created a show that will create debate among people.”

*Gogglebox South Africa* reflects the current state of society and will stimulate viewers to share their opinions and thoughts. We hope that it will also inspire more channels to make programmes for the local marketplace.

On its debut in the UK, *Gogglebox* soon became a word-of-mouth hit that had the Twittersphere buzzing and has resulted in numerous spin-offs in countries around the world with popular editions made in the US, Canada, Australia, Italy, Israel, Poland, Finland, France, Norway, China and the Ukraine and now South Africa is to get its own home-grown version.

Devin Zivkovic, General Manager at

Digitalfilm Service, was tasked with looking for appropriate equipment to do the series at the end of 2015 and contacted Ivor Westpfahl from Central Integration, for technical camera expertise. Remote or PTZ cameras were proposed, as the setup was relatively simple: two cameras on the viewers are intercut with images being watched on a TV.

At the end of 2015 the South African Rand dropped to a record low against the US Dollar. It was against this backdrop that equipment still had to be acquired.

The Sony and Panasonic remote cameras and controllers were deemed to be too expensive. However, Central Integration, a Datavideo reseller, knew that a new Datavideo remote (PTZ) camera – the PTC-150 – was being imported by Eric Wiese at Macro Video Pty Ltd, the importer and distributor of Datavideo products in South Africa. Digital Film Service tested the Datavideo PTC-150 camera extensively with the RMC-180 controller.

The PTC-150 proved capable of delivering the image standard required for the production, at a far lower price than any alternatives considered. Subsequently, an order of eight cameras, four controllers and several Datavideo switchers were placed with Macro Video. These are currently being put to good use in the ongoing production of *Gogglebox South Africa*. 