



## Case Study

**Project Location:** RSPB, Mull of Galloway, Near Stranraer  
**Client:** Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
**Date:** February 2002 and April 2012

### Project Description

The Mull of Galloway is the most southerly tip of Scotland and consists of a very long and thin peninsula jutting out into the Irish Sea. The cliffs there are one of the most exposed parts of coastline in the UK and surrounded turbulent water that provides plentiful food for the extensive seabird colonies that breed there. Only the most able people can make their way down the steep and winding path down from the lighthouse to the foghorn where viewing of the colonies is possible and this is one of the reasons that the RSPB wanted to have live camera feeds to their visitor centre.



We were first approached by the RSPB to look at this project in 2002 and we won the contract to install two cameras with armoured fibre optic and low voltage cables between the cameras and the visitor centre screens back then we used the recently introduced Forward Vision MIC-300 cameras which were the best integrated PTZ cameras available. The images were stunning and with annual servicing and some replacement of accidentally damaged equipment the system proved robust and reliable. With the many of the components no longer available the system was fast becoming impossible to support and a full scale replacement system was required.



After a site visit with the RSPB team we identified a few improvements to the system that would bring back better images and allow for easier access to the cameras for removal at the end of the season.

The majority of the electronics that support the cameras were moved further from the cameras to a safe location that can be reached without rope access

techniques to minimise servicing costs and increase safety. A microphone was fitted in a location much closer to the colony but where there was greater shelter from the wind. The sound of the colonies is mesmerising and now this can be heard in much greater clarity at the visitor centre. The cameras chosen were the BOSCH MIC-550 which had only just been released but from working with pre productions units we were pleased with how they had improved since the 300 and 400 series. Minor improvements such as the sunscreen and the wiper mechanism make this a much better choice than a speed dome type fixture and the 36x optical zoom with mechanical image stabilisation allows for brilliant close up shots of the birds nesting.



We hope to provide a live stream from the Mull of Galloway in the future as the images are superb and even when the birds are not breeding the views to The Isle of Man, Ireland, The Lake District and Scotland are breathtaking.



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