

# The CALM before the Loudness Monitoring Storm

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by Mike Asebrook, Senior Director of Product Marketing

For the past decade, broadcast logging and monitoring systems have been widely adopted for engineering air-checks and compliance verification. However, with the recent consolidation themes across the broadcast industry to accomplish “more with less,” logging and monitoring systems’ utility has been extended to serve new applications as diverse as advertising verification, competitive analysis, content repurposing, and monetizing of media. The growing versatility of advanced logging and monitoring solutions, such as those in the Volicon Observer® family, makes these systems capable of bringing enormous value to many areas of the broadcast operation.

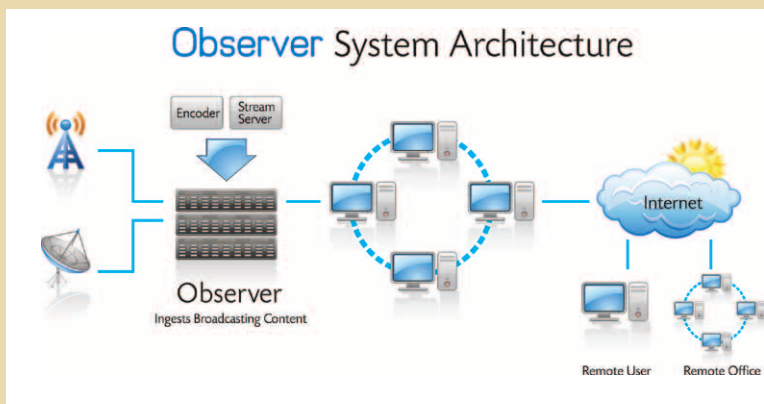


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As broadcasters well know, government regulations are applying increasing pressure and fines to enforce the monitoring and control of parameters such as audio loudness. With commercial loudness being legislated in the United States through the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act and in Europe by groups including the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and Italy’s AGCOM, it’s

the broadcaster’s engineering team uses this interface to monitor video, they also benefit from continuous metered measurements that identify program loudness and true-peak signal levels and, in turn, support compliance with the appropriate standards or regulations.

The new loudness monitoring feature introduced at the 2011 NAB Show for the Volicon Observer makes it easy for users to monitor and log audio for multiple stereo and 5.1 channels and comply with both the BS.1770/A85 and EBU Tech 3341/3342 specifications. In addition to constant visual confirmation of loudness measurements, the enhanced Observer system gives operators instant access to the conflicting logged area of the broadcast, enabling them to view the captured measurements, immediately troubleshoot loudness according to an acceptable specified range,



more important than ever that broadcast networks, TV stations, and cable operators have immediate access to automated real-time loudness level metadata (dialnorm). In addition to facilitating a better overall user listening experience for viewers, this capability is extremely valuable in helping broadcasters to avoid costly fines from the FCC and local regulators.

Volicon’s approach to solving this issue is making this process a simplified, standard element of a typical broadcast logging and monitoring routine. By having intuitive overlay controls within the company’s Web-based Observer interface, monitoring for signal variances has never been easier. As

and then utilize standard DVD controls to quickly clip and use logged video and audio evidence for playout, export, DVD delivery, or archiving for later use.

Observer’s fully compliant, integrated loudness monitoring simplifies the overall monitoring workflow and adds value by eliminating the support hassle and cost of working with external systems. When broadcasters work with a single solution for continuous logging, alerts, and verification of content, as well as loudness monitoring, they can save valuable time and reduce costs while maintaining a high quality standard — and audio comfort level — for viewing audiences.



Also Introducing  
**Observer TS**  
MPEG (ASI/IP) Transport  
Stream Logging

# TAKE CONTROL OF Loudness Monitoring

## Volicon Observer™

Automated real-time  
loudness level metadata

Provide more comprehensive  
monitoring & troubleshooting

Avoid costly fines from  
the FCC and local regulations

Fully BS.1770/A85 and EBU  
Compliant, integrated  
loudness monitoring

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