

## CASE STUDY

# Speech recognition in live TV applications

Real-time subtitles thanks to speech recognition at Schweizer Fernsehen



### Live broadcasts with subtitles on Swiss television thanks to speech recognition

Live broadcasts by the SRG SSR idée suisse can be subtitled in real time thanks to the speech recognition software Dragon Professional. This enlivens the TV experience for viewers who can only follow the television programmes with the help of subtitles.

#### **Closer to live events thanks to speech recognition**

SWISS TXT has been subtitled the programmes of the SRG SSR idée Suisse for about 25 years. Most of the programmes broadcasted have been recorded and the texts for the subtitles have been entered into the system manually prior to the broadcast. With live broadcasts, however, conventional subtitling technologies had reached their limits.

Live means being there. Time delays diminish the real time experience – live light, so to say. This hurdle is overcome with speech recognition. And this is how it works: So-called re-speakers repeat synchronously the words spoken on TV the way an interpreter would. A computer transforms what is said into text, which then appears instantly on the screen as a subtitle.

In search for a suitable solution, SWISS TXT turned to Voicepoint, the Swiss distributor for Dragon speech recognition software. The following criteria were demanded: Multilingualism (German, French, Italian), holistic maintenance and opti-

mal integration into the existing subtitling system. In addition, it had to be possible to cater for the requirements of the re-speakers by way of scripting and command programming.

SWISS TXT found the best solution at Voicepoint. The Dragon Professional software fulfils all of the criteria demanded.

#### **Successful live broadcasts**

There are good reasons why as many as 60 re-speakers rely on the new software solution nowadays. Live broadcasts are always critical: There is no second chance – the re-speakers themselves know that best. The Dragon Professional speech recognition software accurately recognises the spoken word, works extremely fast and precisely so that viewers can follow the subtitles at the same time as the events on the screen.

The product is being continuously expanded. New requirements can be easily implemented. Various vocabularies and language models for the various sectors and an adaptive software and context adaption cater for optimal recognition performance.

“Dragon Professional opens up entirely new opportunities for us”, says Gion Linder, the project manager in charge at SWISS TXT. “We can now subtitle input by correspondents that go live during the news in future.”