



Most stations still use POTS (Plain Old Telephone System) lines to supply their IFB feeds. Television broadcasters need ways to reduce costs and stay within budgets - and using POTS lines can burn a lot of cash. We built EarShot IFB to bring the power of VoIP (Voice-over-IP) to IFB technology.

Comrex EarShot IFB is a hardware-based system that delivers live audio feeds to callers. EarShot IFB is designed to provide telephone-based live studio program and IFB audio to field-based remote broadcasts, like TV ENG reports. Up to 30 callers can dial in and listen to the audio feeds - this makes it possible to replace up to 30 POTS lines with one simple box.

Multiple Audio Inputs

EarShot IFB has four audio inputs (or feeds). Two of the feeds can be alternately configured as IFB inputs. Up to 30 callers can dial in and listen to audio from standard telephones. Callers can switch between the feeds using DTMF (Touch Tone) selection.

VoIP

EarShot IFB interfaces to VoIP telephone circuits using the SIP protocol. This makes it possible to replace up to 30 POTS lines with one box. EarShot IFB can handle 30 POTS calls or 10 wideband calls - it's also configurable to handle a combination of each. VoIP phone lines can be delivered via IP-based PBXs (in many cases), cloud-based providers, or hardware gateways devices that bridge legacy phone circuits (e.g. T1/E1, POTS) to VoIP.

Selectable Feeds

EarShot IFB features selectable feeds. Users can configure some feeds with full program audio, and implement mix-minus on other feeds to prevent echo and other audio flaws. This versatility makes it simple to tailor EarShot IFB to your needs.

Audio Quality

EarShot IFB can interface to most normal calls using standard telephony audio encoding (G.711). The free FieldTap app is available for iOS and Android smartphones, and allows simple connections to EarShot IFB from these phones. EarShot IFB uses the Opus audio encoder in this mode, and delivers crystal clear, studio-quality sound to the caller.

Connections & Features

- 1U 19" rackmount chassis

Inputs

- AES/Analog switch
- Feed/IFB 1 Input
- Feed/IFB 2 Input
- Feed 3 Input
- Feed 4 Input

Network

- 2 USB connections
- Primary Ethernet Port
- Secondary Ethernet Port

Communications

- Contact Closures
- Serial Port

Operation

- HDMI/DisplayPort (supplies Console IP Setup interface)