

# Satellite interference conference reaches out to the industry

**CAIRO** – The annual interference conference put on by the Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group (SUIRG) was held in Cairo, Egypt, from October 7-9. Each year, SUIRG brings together its members and guests to discuss issues, solutions and trends in the battle against satellite interference. The 2008 event, co-hosted by Nilesat and supported by the Cable & Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA), welcomed over 40 attendees from 18 countries, including satellite operators, and equipment providers and users.

## Open discussions

The annual SUIRG conference provides a unique opportunity for the satellite community to openly address interference issues and share their experiences in a non-competitive environment. Session topics are developed with the feedback of member companies indicating priority issues they would like discussed.

Sessions during the 2008 Satellite Interference Conference included:

- Review and discussion of past and/or ongoing interference incidents, with special presentations by Telesat and Arabsat;
- Presentation of an interference cost study by SUIRG Chairman James Budden;
- Military interference and its implications on commercial satcomms;
- Update on SUIRG's training and certification forum;
- Discussion of Interference Source Identifier forum with presentations on current and future systems;

## association update

- Report by SUIRG Regulatory working group on post-WRC meeting WiMAX initiatives; and

- Status of the Interference Characterisation database.

"Every year I'm impressed at the enthusiastic participation and level of dialogue generated at the conference, and this year was no exception," said SUIRG president Robert Ames. "The experience of sitting in a room with this calibre of professionals representing such a broad spectrum of the industry is something you won't find at any other gathering. The venue and atmosphere of our interference conference allows for frank discussions about the technical dos and don'ts that are of primary concern to this audience."

Some key decisions emanating from SUIRG's 2008 Interference Conference include:

- Finalise the interference characteri-

sation database;

- Continue regulatory efforts to protect satellite C- and Ku-bands; and
- Offer a 10% dues discount for members who bring in a new member.

The board also voted on a new slate for the 2008-09 year. The majority of members were re-elected with some changes: Luis Jimenez resigned due to SES consolidation. David Wilkenson joined the board representing Qinetiq, and Nigel Smith rejoined after his move to Mitre.

## A conference with a view

The 2008 conference was held at the Nile Hilton in Cairo in a room with spectacular views of the Nile River. The welcome reception hosted by SUIRG and a dinner and show cruise sponsored by Nilesat allowed old friends to catch up with each other and new members and guests to get acquainted with SUIRG members. Sightseeing at the conclusion of day two and an early finish on day three provided partici-



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pants the chance to experience the spectacular sites of their host city.

## Looking ahead

2008 was a productive year for SUIRG and its member companies with a few significant achievements in the fight against satellite interference. Ames continued: "One thing was clear from the discussions — we've made progress but there is so much more to be done. With WiMAX and International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) systems hot on our heels for C-band spectrum, it is more important than ever for the satellite community to work together."

The 2009 meeting will be held in Cannes, France, and will be co-hosted by Thales Alenia Space. The SUIRG annual conference is free to members with a nominal fee assessed for non-members.

## Join the campaign

Membership in SUIRG provides companies with a say in eradicating satellite interference. Through participation in SUIRG-organised tests, visibility through SUIRG publications and publicity campaigns, and an active role in affecting industry standard and policies, members have the opportunity to make a difference. SUIRG offers four levels of membership with value-added benefits associated at each level.



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SUIRG is an international not-for-profit assembly of parties with representation from both the private and public sectors, organised to combat the increasing and costly problem of satellite RF interference. The group's membership comprises satellite operators, users, uplinkers, service providers, equipment vendors and other organisations with a stake in combating radio frequency interference. SUIRG also collects interference incident data from satellite operators on its website to clearly define the specific areas that need focus to reduce the number of incidents.

[www.suirg.org](http://www.suirg.org).

The Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group (SUIRG) will alternate with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) and the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) to appear in every other issue of APB, highlighting various association news to the industry.