

# 2007 a significant year for SUIRG's efforts to minimise interference

## PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA –

Each year the Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group (SUIRG) brings together its members and guests for a "meeting of the minds" on issues, solutions and trends in the battle against satellite interference. The SUIRG annual conference, held at a different host location each year, provides a unique opportunity for members of the satellite community to openly discuss their experiences in dealing with interference issues.

SUIRG's 2007 conference, co-hosted by member organisation AsiaSat, was held in Hong Kong in late November. Nearly 50 attendees from 32 companies and 19 countries participated in the two-and-a-half-day meet.

"2007 was a particularly busy and productive year for SUIRG and its member companies. We had several significant successes, not the least of which was notably raising awareness of

## association update

the causes, implications and severity of interference," said SUIRG chairman James Budden. "We had a record turnout at this year's conference which signifies the importance companies in the industry are placing on interference-reduction efforts."

### Informative sessions

The conference opened with a session on *Defining the Problem*. Several member companies made presentations outlining past and current interference incidents they had dealt with. The resulting discussion revolving around these reports was lively and informative, devoid of competitive tensions.

"Several attendees remarked on the frank discussions," com-

mented SUIRG president Robert Ames. "New members and guests are often surprised by the collaborative nature of this forum. We don't discuss competitive sales information but rather focus on the technical do's and don'ts that are of primary concern to this audience."

The SUIRG annual meeting featured other informative and participatory sessions:

- Military interference implications.

- Training and SUIRG certification programmes.

- Interference Source Identifier testing and conclusions: Colem Engineering and Advent Communications, who has incorporated SUIRG's source location specifications into its latest digital video exciter, the DVE5000, expanded on the benefits of this technology.

- Report on the WiMax and C-band interference tests conducted jointly by SUIRG, the US

Navy and the Global VSAT Forum, as well as results from SUIRG's Regulatory working group chair, Angela Maimo of Intelsat, who attended the World Radiocommunications Conference 2007 (WRC-07);

- An overview on the various tools developed by member companies SAT Corp and IN-SNEC for interference detection, characterisation and geo-location: A presentation was also made on tools available from member company Thales Alenia Space for managing and optimising satellite payload capacity when interference is present.

- SUIRG working groups updated attendees on several databases under development, including the Metrics of Interference Sources, Interference Characterisation and Interference Scenarios.

John Pepper, director of engineering, Colem Engineering, observed: "SUIRG is bringing the shared and common problem of interference, its characteristics and analysis to the forefront of industry debate."

Of course, no conference would be complete without some good old-fashioned fun and networking opportunities. Social activities included SUIRG's usual "meet and greet" reception the evening before the conference, where old friends caught up with each other and new members and guests had the opportunity to get acquainted with SUIRG members. At the end of the first conference day, attendees were treated to a wonderful 11-course Chinese dinner sponsored by the conference co-host AsiaSat at a local restaurant.

One of the SUIRG Interference Conference traditions is the golf tournament. Eight members competed in the fourth Annual International Invitational Golf Tournament. Roland Smith of SES Astra was the deserving winner of the 2008 tournament.

### Looking forward

While SUIRG believes that tremendous progress has been made in raising the awareness of the seriousness of interference incidents, there remains much to accomplish in this arena. The 2008 Goals and Objectives that were identified and approved by the SUIRG board reflect this challenge.

For 2008, SUIRG will devote its efforts to:

- Expanding the Interfer-

ence Source Location contact and uplink systems information;

- Issuing the Interference Example Characteristics and Resolution database;

- Continuing efforts to mitigate the WRC-07 decision, allowing certain regions to allow WiMax systems and C-band satellite systems to co-exist; and

- Developing a Certified Trainer Database and expanding the number of certified training courses.

"As long as there are mobile and low-cost services, all of us need to be vigilant in our operations and our reporting of problems so that new and more effective interference-fighting techniques can be developed," said Budden. "It was rewarding to see the number of members and guests who engaged in lively discussions and have demonstrated their commitment to our cause. There's still a long way to go though, and still many organisations that are not fully engaged in the cause to stamp out interference."

"We have an aggressive mandate for 2008," added Ames. "The commitment we've seen from members and the enthusiasm of the guests who attended the conference gives me hope that we'll be able to meet our goal of stopping interference before it begins."



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 Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) to appear in every other issue of APB, highlighting various association news to the industry.*



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