

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Interference Source Locator Working Group Provides First Global,

Live Demonstration of Rapid Source Identification



Washington, DC, December 21 2006 – The Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group (SUIRG), through its Interference Source Locator Working Group, recently completed the first successful global test of embedding and decoding contact- and location-specification information via the Global Positioning System from an operational Satellite News Gathering (SNG) truck. The live test was conducted during the World Broadcasting Unions International Satellite Operations Group (WBU-ISOG) fall meeting held at Intelsat headquarters in Washington, D.C. earlier this month.

“Interference originates from several sources – anything from human error to deliberate interference to equipment malfunction. Ad hoc uplinkers, such as Satellite Newsgathering (SNG) services are one of those sources,” explained Robert W. Ames, Jr., SUIRG President. SUIRG, a non-profit member association comprised of both private and public sector satellite companies as well as other participants and businesses in the satellite industry, is dedicated to combating the increasing and costly problem of satellite radio frequency interference (RFI).

“When a mobile satellite truck arrives for a one-off event, or an SNG truck gets to a breaking news story, the operator generally has limited time to coordinate the uplink,” continued Ames. “Occasionally this can result in uplinking to the wrong satellite, or use of an incorrect frequency or polarization. When incidents like this occur, rapid identification of the interference source would minimize the disruption of service to other users. For this reason, SNG truck operators such as SISLink, one of the sponsors of the recent live demonstration, are behind this new technology 100 percent.”

As part of its effort to combat RFI, SUIRG and its members are working on developing specifications for Carrier Identification Descriptors. The rapid source identification test performed on December 7 was the first in a series of trials that will result in firmware uploads that will become the new industry standard specification. Once certified, this new specification will be applied to all Satellite News Gathering vehicles.

“This demonstration would not have been possible without the tremendous effort on the part of all the organizations involved,” added Ames. “Link Research created the firmware that allows the client ID, contact number and geographical coordinates to be added to the Network Information Table (NIT). COLEM Communication’s Monitoring and Control System has successfully proven that this information can be automatically added to the NIT before transmission to the satellite. And SAT Corporation demonstrated that it is possible to use a modern CSM system based on digital technology to extract information from the NIT.”

“All interference is devastating to broadcasters, particularly when it involves TV production and program distribution. It causes untold problems, expense, and loss of revenue,” said Dick Tauber, Chair of WBU-ISOG and Vice President, Transmission Systems and New Technologies, CNN. “This long awaited solution to identifying the location of an uplink facility can only be considered beneficial in the fight against satellite Interference.”

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ABOUT SUIRG: SUIRG (www.suirg.org) is an international assembly of parties with representation from both the private and public sector organized to combat the increasing and costly problem of satellite RF interference. The Group’s membership is comprised of satellite operators, users, uplinkers, service providers, equipment vendors and other organizations with a stake in combating radio frequency interference. SUIRG also collects interference incident data from satellite

operators on its web site to clearly define the specific areas that need focus to reduce the number of incidents.

ABOUT COLEM Communications: Formed in 1997, COLEM Communications (CCL) (www.colem.co.uk) places a strong emphasis on its skills in system design and operation. COLEM features cost-effective and specialized “one-off” monitor and control products with good ergonomic design using high quality Graphical User Interfaces. Key to COLEM’s success is the use of a proven, internationally recognized standard platform as the base for its new X-Com product range.

ABOUT Link Research: Link Research Limited (www.linkres.co.uk) was founded in September 1992. In 2001, Link started a major initiative to develop professional leading-edge DVB/MPEG encoders and associated products. Link’s Encoder/Modulators and Wireless Camera Systems have since become market leading products.

Link Research looked to Advent Communications Limited, the satellite communications company for Vislink PLC, to supply its Satellite and Encoding Equipment. The initial tests were done using the Advent L1109 L-Band Encoder Modulator which has the software enabled to provide the Carrier ID, now (Dec2006). All future released products, including the new DVE5000 series encoders, will also contain this option.

ABOUT SAT Corporation: SAT Corporation (www.sat.com) is a worldwide supplier of automated RF signal monitoring systems for satellite and terrestrial spectrum management applications. These systems are communication management tools for commercial network owner/operators and telecommunications service providers to guarantee and maintain the quality of service they provide to their customers.

ABOUT SISLink: SISLink (www.sislink.co.uk) is Europe’s largest provider of satellite uplinks. SISLink has used Link Research coders for the uPod product with well over 50 systems produced and delivered to customers. The new L1109 L-Band encoder is currently the preferred unit for future uPods and the embedding and decoding of contact and location details within the coder is a welcome function. With its global fleet of uplink vehicles, SISLink is ideally placed to identify and utilise new

methods of maintaining high standards within the industry.

ABOUT WBU-ISOG: The World Broadcasting Unions International Satellite Operations Group (www.worldbroadcastingunions.org) has provided a forum since 1985 for members of the WBU, satellite operators and equipment manufacturers and service providers in the industry to exchange information, outline requirements and resolve common operational problems related to international content acquisition and distribution for scheduled and unplanned events. In the mid-90s, recognizing the problems caused by interference, WBU-ISOG established the RCWG (Rogue Carriers Working Group) to focus specifically on satellite interference. The December 7 live rapid source identification demonstration is an outgrowth of those efforts.

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For additional information, visit www.suirg.org or contact:

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