



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Satellite Interference Becoming a Global Problem
Warns President of Industry RFI Reduction Group**

Washington, D.C., June 10, 2004 – Radio frequency interference (RFI) is a global problem that exacts an increasing financial toll on satellite operators warned **Robert W. Ames, Jr.**, president of the **Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group (SUIRG)**. Ames, addressing an industry audience at the recent ISCe 2004 conference in Long Beach, CA, alerted attendees that RFI is a quality of service issue that relates directly to the satisfaction of satellite service customers.

Ames noted that thin route services are one of the fastest growing segments of satellite communications. “Thin routes utilize the principal advantage of satellites over cable, which is direct point of service,” he said. “However, the number of thin routes is increasing significantly, which correlates directly with a dramatic increase in satellite interference.”

SUIRG 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. Members disseminate information and actively pursue programs to reduce radio frequency interference incidents. Formed over ten years ago as an informal group working to reduce radio interference, SUIRG incorporated as a 501(c) (6) trade association in September 2003. 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.

Ames cited SNG trucks, DBS Internet services and VSAT networks as the types of thin route services most associated with signal interference. Other RFI contributory factors

he noted are the increasing number of uplinks, 2 degree satellite spacing, minimally trained operators, and less robust equipment design.

SUIRG's statistics show that a majority of interference incidents occurred in the Atlantic Ocean Region (AOR), perhaps owing to the fact that this region traditionally carries the majority of global traffic. However, the other ocean regions, POR and IOR, have their share of interference incidents, supporting the global nature of interference problems cited by SUIRG.

According to Ames, interference costs each major satellite operator millions of dollars a year. SUIRG's objective is to stop interference before it starts, utilizing a number of remedies, among them: signal Identification, which involves working with uplink equipment vendors to modify their equipment to provide a unique ID for cross-reference in a database when interference occurs; uplink training, procedures and certification; improved detection and identification tools, and continuous sharing of information and solutions among the SUIRG membership.

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For more information about SUIRG, go to www.suirg.org, or call: 1-941-575-1277.

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