



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leading Industry Interference Reduction Group Incorporates; Takes Pro-Active Approach To Maintaining Satellite Transmission Quality

Washington, DC [December 2003] - The **Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group** (SUIRG), a voluntary international association of satellite operators & users, announced that it has formally incorporated as a not-for-profit to lead the satellite industry's coordination of radio frequency interference (RFI)-related issues, with the aim of ensuring the highest quality of services to satellite services customers worldwide.

SUIRG has functioned informally for 10 years, with a subgroup of 35 member companies sharing information and strategies for maintaining interference-free satellite transmissions. The group agreed to incorporate last year at its Singapore meeting and announced completion of the process at the latest meeting held in Bariloche, Argentina. It will be based in Washington, D.C. Founding members include major satellite operators such as Intelsat, PanAmSat, New Skies Satellites and Inmarsat, as well as the interference identification companies QinetiQ and Glow Link.

Robert W. Ames Jr., founding President and CEO of SUIRG, Inc., said, "With the proliferation of satellite services around the world and the vastly increased numbers of people operating antennas, it is very important for satellite operators and related companies to have a forum in which to discuss interference solutions and develop recommended policies and procedures for satellite uplinkers. SUIRG is now more empowered to play that role and to become a focused advocate for best practices and quality maintenance across the industry."

Ames continued, "As a formal entity, SUIRG will act as an umbrella clearing-house for narrower, interference-related issues being addressed by other industry associations such as the International Satellite Operations Group (ISOG) and the Cable & Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA). All of these groups recognize the benefit that a focused association like SUIRG can bring to satellite operators and users alike."

Dick Tauber, Chairman of WBU-ISOG (World Broadcasting Unions-International Satellite Operations Group) and Vice President of Satellites and Circuits for CNN, said "SUIRG not only has reached an important milestones by incorporating the organization, it already has set out to tackle a number of critical objectives. I am really very pleased (and I'm sure I speak for all of us in ISOG, especially our RCWG - Rouge Carriers Working Group), that SUIRG has already begun to deal with the complex Carrier Identifier task."

The Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group (SUIRG), an international not for profit corporation, supports satellite operators and users by identifying and prioritizing the causes of radio frequency interference (RFI) and advocating voluntary industry solutions to reduce or mitigate interference. SUIRG membership is open to all providers and users of satellite services.

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