

PRESS RELEASE

SlingPath - Now Available in Spanish

Unique online satellite newsgathering (SNG) training for the TV news industry in English & Spanish

[15 April 2011, Luton, UK]

BeaconSeek Ltd, the UK-based satellite consultancy and training company, today announced that SlingPath, their unique online satellite newsgathering (SNG) training program for the TV news industry, is now available in Spanish as well as English.

Satellite interference is a significant problem globally, affecting broadcasters and viewers alike, and is often caused by operator error at the uplink. Because of the frequent cyclic nature of SNG transmissions, the scope for untrained uplink operators to cause problems to other satellite users is very high. Hence the solution to this problem lies in a global standard of training and competence for SNG uplink operators.

SlingPath (slingpath.com) is BeaconSeek's innovative competency-based online SNG training and certification program. It is already used by the satellite operators Intelsat and SES, as well as by a wide range of broadcasters and SNG operators, including ABC News, Al Jazeera, Arqiva, Fox News, C-SPAN, and Nine Network Australia.

With the introduction of the Spanish version of the training, SlingPath is now accessible to a very much greater number of SNG uplink operators in the vibrant TV news markets of South and Central America as well as Spain.

The 'Basic SNG Operations' SlingPath program is an introduction to satellites and their use in newsgathering, aimed at both new entrants to the industry and those required to gain some understanding of SNG processes. The training guides the student through the basics of satellites, how they are used in newsgathering, the various component parts and key technical parameters of an SNG system, and how to both work with satellites and interface with satellite operator control centres.

In particular, the program is suitable for those who are required to operate the latest generation of 'auto-pointing' SNG systems, which enable operators with negligible training to access satellite capacity - but in doing so masks the technical aspects of the actions being undertaken.

No prior knowledge is required, and since the course is only available online, it is accessible at the student's own pace from anywhere with internet access at any time. The course is completed with an online examination to earn an industry-recognized qualification.

SlingPath is a fully accredited SNG training program endorsed by Intelsat, SES, SIRG (Satellite Interference Reduction Group) and WBU-ISOG (World Broadcasting Union – International Satellite Operations Group).

About SlingPath

SlingPath was first launched in English in 2007, and was developed by Jonathan Higgins of BeaconSeek (the author of two unique books on satellite and electronic newsgathering), in collaboration with e-Blended Learning Solutions of New Zealand, specialists in designing web-based training for remote learning applications.

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