

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **World's First Online SNG Training Course Launched at NAB**

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Satellite interference is a significant problem to satellite users and often caused by operator error – hence the solution to this problem lies in a global standard of competence for SNG (satellite newsgathering) uplink operators. SlingPath offers the first competency-based online training for SNG, and is accessible, interactive, and user-friendly.

Launched at NAB2007 in Las Vegas, “Basic SNG Operations” is an introduction to satellites and their use in newsgathering, aimed at new entrants and those required to gain some understanding of satellite newsgathering processes. No prior knowledge is required, and as the course is online it's accessible by anyone from anywhere at anytime.

Basic SNG Operations is the initial SlingPath satellite newsgathering (SNG) course, aimed at the absolute beginner, taking the student through the basics of satellites, how they are used in newsgathering, and the various key technical parameters and critical component parts of an SNG system and how to work with satellites.

The SlingPath presentation of the material is highly graphical, interactive and user-friendly, with potentially complex subjects presented in a fashion that makes it approachable to even the most techno-phobic participants.

At the end of each of the seven modules there is a multi-choice self-check test, and finally at the end of the course there is a multiple choice question examination which the student must pass in order to achieve the award of a certificate. The course can typically be completed in around seven hours at the students own pace, and is available at an affordable US\$ 595 per seat.

The SlingPath online course is followed up by a 2-3 day practical course with a hands-on examination, which can be undertaken at one of eight practical training centres which will be established around the globe by the end of 2007.

Already approved and accredited by satellite industry bodies SUIRG (Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group) and WBU-ISOG (World Broadcasting Union – International Satellite Operations Group), this web-based training is a truly new advance in training for the SNG market. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of a move to establish a core competency level for all those involved in satellite newsgathering.

Accessible at [www.slingpath.com](http://www.slingpath.com).

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#### About SlingPath

SlingPath was developed by Jonathan Higgins of UK-based BeaconSeek (and the author of two major and 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.



#### About SUIRG

The Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group is a global industry organization dedicated to combating the increasing and costly problem of satellite radio frequency interference (RFI). Comprised of representatives from both private industry and the public sector, SUIRG shares and disseminates radio frequency information and remedies, works with industry to define equipment standards and proficiency training, and actively pursues programs to reduce and eliminate satellite interference.

#### About WBU-ISOG

Founded in 1985, the International Satellite Operations Group (ISOG) is a committee of the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU). ISOG provides a global forum for members of the WBU to exchange information, outline requirements and resolve common operational problems for all operational matters associated with transmission (by satellite or any other means) of video, audio, and broadcast-related data material from sites of news, sports, special events and entertainment.