



# **SNG Training for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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# Definition of SNG

- Satellite Newsgathering (SNG) is the use of Transportable Earth Stations to provide news and events coverage
- Small units - either vehicle or flight-case (“flyaway”) based



# The Issue

- Lack of formalised training
- >99% of all training “on-the-job”
- “Bad” habits are passed on
- No **structured** assessment of **competence**



# Isn't SNG the same as VSAT?

- Only two common elements
  1. Both use an antenna reflector
  2. Both use a satellite
- But operation & all the equipment behind is different



# Not all Uplinks are the same ...

## VSAT

- Permanent installations
- Typically unsupervised
- Fixed
- Network architecture
- Low power SSPAs
- Occasional interaction with NOC
- One time site activation

## SNG

- Temporary & frequent set-up
- Directly supervised
- Mobile/transportable
- SCPC architecture
- High power TWTAs
- Frequent interaction with NOC(s)
- Multiple transmissions - timed to the minute



# Why Training Now?

- Increasingly important as ***use*** of ***SNG spreads*** to ***people not familiar*** with ***RF transmission***
  
- Cameramen, Picture Editors, Journalists
  
- Will reduce the incidence of interference due to “finger” problems



# Things ain't what they used to be ...

- "Traditional" SNG staffed with experienced uplink technicians



# Point & Shoot

- Now an easy-to-use uplink for non-technical staff can be deployed
- Small cars/flyaways







# New way of working

- These new SNG flyaways & trucks feature:
  - Auto-pointing
  - Auto set-up of transmit parameters
  - Remote control
  
- Result - Users ***need*** to know ***less*** – but ***should*** know ***more***
  
- ***Why?*** - To ***reduce*** the risk of ***interference***



# SlingPath - The Philosophy

- To provide competency based & cost-effective SNG training
  1. Online Theory
  2. Hands-on Practical
- Affordable & Accessible



# Part One

- Theoretical online course - US\$ 595
- 7 Modules / 12 month window
- Self-test before proceeding
- Compulsory examination (80% to pass)
- Certification



# Syllabus - Theory

- Introduction to Satellite Theory
- Compression, Modulation & Error Correction
- SNG uplink system & components
- Setting up & accessing the satellite
- Interference, Site Surveys, and Safety

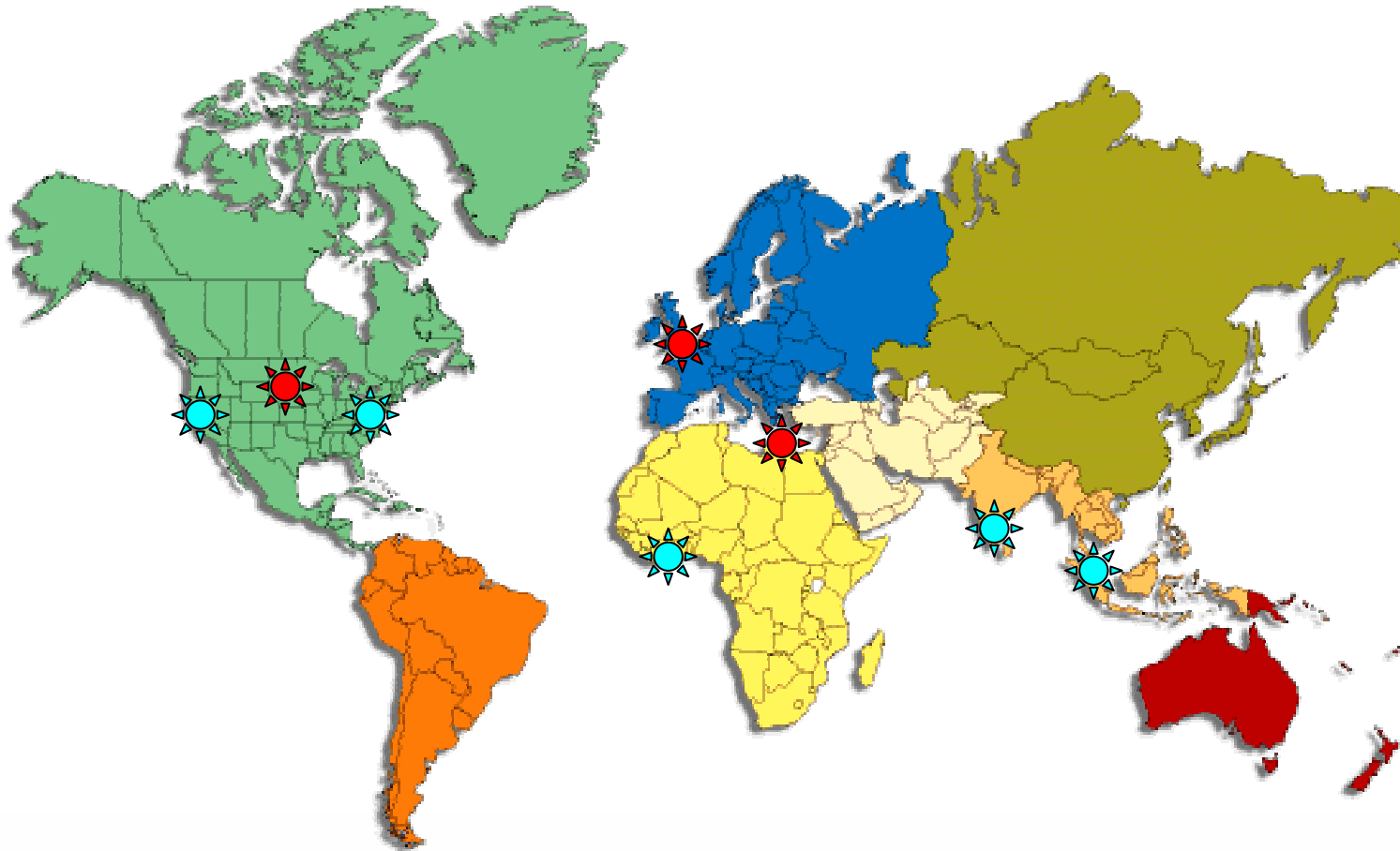


## Part Two

- Practical course (~ US\$ 1800)
- 3 day course / multiple centres globally
- Assessment inc. satellite accesses
- Certification **only** on passing final test



# PTC Locations





# Industry Accreditation



And other satellite operators? ...



# Intelsat's Initiative

- Purchased a significant number of seats to offer **free** to selected customers
- Offering a discount to other customers who wish to be trained
- 3 year program





## Long term ....

- Re-certification after three years
- Compulsory to maintain qualification
- New technologies can be covered
- Database of qualified individuals



# Contacts

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