BLACKBIRD FOR TRAINING

Satellite News Gathering (SNG) Systems

18 – 22 October 2027
Amsterdam (Netherlands)



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Introduction

Satellite News Gathering SNG Systems play a critical role in modern broadcasting by enabling the reliable transmission of live video, audio, and data from remote locations to broadcast centers through satellite communication networks. These systems have become an essential component of live news coverage, major sporting events, national ceremonies, public events, and large-scale media operations that require real-time transmission capabilities.

With the continuous advancement of satellite communications and digital broadcasting technologies, there is an increasing demand for technical professionals capable of operating, managing, and maintaining SNG systems efficiently. This requires a comprehensive understanding of satellite communication principles, transmission technologies, uplink operations, signal management, and the operational requirements necessary to ensure uninterrupted and high-quality broadcast services.

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of the technical and operational aspects of Satellite News Gathering Systems. It focuses on SNG vehicles, transportable earth stations, satellite communication infrastructure, uplink operations, transmission management, signal monitoring, and coordination with satellite operators and service providers.

The course also examines industry best practices related to transmission planning, operational risk management, system reliability, and business continuity. Participants will gain the knowledge required to support live broadcasting operations, manage satellite transmission activities, and ensure consistent service quality across a wide range of broadcasting environments.

Through a structured approach, participants will strengthen their understanding of satellite-based broadcasting systems and develop the operational awareness necessary to support large-scale media and communication projects effectively.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:



- Understand the fundamentals of satellite communications.
- Explain the architecture and components of Satellite News Gathering Systems.
- Understand the operational structure of SNG vehicles and transportable earth stations.
- Develop knowledge of SNG system installation and deployment requirements.
- Understand satellite access procedures and transmission management.
- Apply RF principles within broadcast communication environments.
- Improve signal quality and transmission efficiency.
- Manage live broadcast operations from remote locations.
- Diagnose common technical issues affecting satellite transmissions.
- Develop preventive maintenance strategies for SNG equipment.
- Manage multi-site broadcasting operations and large-scale event coverage.
- Strengthen coordination with satellite operators and service providers.
- Understand regulatory and operational requirements related to satellite broadcasting.
- Apply industry best practices for safety, reliability, and operational efficiency.

Course Outlines

Day 1: Fundamentals of Satellite Communications and SNG Systems

- Introduction to Satellite News Gathering Systems and their importance in broadcasting.
- Evolution of satellite broadcasting technologies and applications.
- Overview of satellite communication networks and infrastructure.
- The role of satellites in live broadcasting operations.
- Components of Satellite News Gathering Systems.
- Satellite frequencies, transponders, and coverage footprints.
- RF fundamentals for broadcasting environments.
- Signal flow from event locations to broadcast centers.
- Operational architecture of transmission and reception systems.
- Requirements for modern satellite broadcasting operations.

Day 2: System Installation and Operational Configuration

- Technical architecture of SNG vehicles.
- Components of transportable earth stations.
- Antenna systems and deployment procedures.
- Site selection and preparation requirements.
- Primary and backup power systems.
- Redundancy planning and operational reliability.
- Equipment integration and system configuration.
- Preparing systems for operational deployment.
- Safety procedures during installation and operation.
- Technical readiness requirements before transmission activities.



Day 3: Satellite Acquisition and Transmission Operations

- Coordination procedures with satellite operators.
- Antenna pointing and satellite acquisition techniques.
- Carrier establishment and transmission verification.
- Modulation and encoding technologies used in broadcasting.
- Signal monitoring during transmission operations.
- Managing live broadcast transmission quality.
- Maintaining service continuity during events.
- Addressing operational challenges during live broadcasts.
- Managing multi-location news and event coverage.
- Improving satellite transmission efficiency.

Day 4: Maintenance, Troubleshooting, and Performance Optimization

- Diagnosing transmission failures and signal degradation.
- Common issues affecting satellite communication systems.
- Preventive maintenance programs for SNG equipment.
- Performance monitoring and fault analysis.
- Link budget optimization techniques.
- Technical performance measurement and evaluation.
- Interference detection and mitigation strategies.
- Operational risk management in satellite broadcasting.
- Business continuity and disaster recovery planning.
- Enhancing system reliability and operational readiness.

Day 5: Managing Large-Scale Satellite Broadcast Networks

- Planning satellite connectivity for major events.
- Managing multiple broadcast locations simultaneously.
- Operating network monitoring and control centers.
- Coordination with broadcasters, satellite operators, and service providers.
- Managing satellite-supported public viewing networks.
- Regulatory and licensing requirements for satellite broadcasting.
- Operational management during national and international events.
- Evaluating network performance and service quality.
- Developing continuous improvement strategies.
- Reviewing international best practices in satellite broadcast management.



Why Attend This Course: Wins & Losses!

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of Satellite News Gathering Systems.
- Strengthen knowledge of satellite communications and live broadcasting operations.
- Improve the ability to operate and manage satellite broadcasting systems.
- Enhance transmission quality and operational efficiency.
- Develop stronger troubleshooting and maintenance capabilities.
- Improve readiness for major events and live broadcast operations.
- Strengthen coordination with satellite operators and service providers.
- Enhance operational reliability and service continuity.
- Improve management of multi-site broadcast activities.
- Reduce operational risks and transmission disruptions.

Conclusion

The Satellite News Gathering SNG Systems course provides a comprehensive framework for understanding, operating, and managing satellite-based broadcasting systems used in live news coverage, major public events, and large-scale media operations. The course addresses both the technical and operational aspects of satellite communications, from understanding system architecture to managing complex transmission networks.

Participants explore the components of SNG systems, installation requirements, transmission procedures, signal monitoring techniques, and performance optimization methods. Particular attention is given to operational reliability, transmission quality, and service continuity throughout live broadcasting activities.

The course also examines maintenance strategies, troubleshooting methodologies, operational risk management, and business continuity planning. These areas help organizations maintain system readiness while minimizing service interruptions and technical challenges that could affect broadcast operations.

In its final stage, the course focuses on managing large-scale satellite broadcast networks, coordinating with multiple stakeholders, and applying international best practices in satellite communication operations. Participants gain the knowledge required to support complex broadcasting environments and ensure reliable transmission services across diverse operational scenarios.

By the end of the course, participants will possess a strong understanding of Satellite News Gathering Systems and the operational principles necessary to support efficient, reliable, and high-quality satellite broadcasting services.

