



Finding some stability

Christmas is upon us again. Night is drawing in early while many of us are still at work, there's a definite nip in the air, and the streets are bustling with shoppers. The stores have the most interesting mixture of aromas; warming spices designed to set the Christmas shopping mood, the sickly-sweet smell of too many different types of sweets, and geosmin, the scent of rain.

For many of us, it's been a busy year. The biggest shows, CABSAT, Satellite 2017, CommunicAsia, IBC and AfricaCom, have been interspersed with smaller but still critical events like the IRG's Annual Workshop and Global MilSatCom, as well as invaluable visits to key clients.

This year has been my second year in the satellite sector, and it's been great to find some stability. 2016, my first year, was an uphill battle, becoming familiar with as many different concepts and technologies as possible, meeting thousands of new people, and visiting unfamiliar places. This year was a substantial improvement; there is always a lot to be learned, but having a solid grounding in the technologies and a fantastic group of contacts around the world has been a massive boost. Next year is sure to be even better again.

Christmas is a time for rest, and we should all take advantage of the opportunity to recharge our batteries. Certainly, once I've finished preparing the January/February issues of Satellite Evolution Asia, Satellite Evolution EMEA and Global Military Communications, I'll be winding down for a relaxing couple of weeks of mulling; cider, wine, rum, cupcakes. The possibilities are endless.

Intuition tells me that 2018 is going to be an unusual year. Rest and preparation, therefore, is essential. For many of us, our travelling is going to start early with a trip to Dubai for CABSAT in January, instead of the usual March. Around the same time, President Trump's wall prototypes in San Diego should have been completed and evaluated, and we should be hearing about whether he can get the funding to build the full-scale Border Wall. Something tells me Mexico isn't going to pay up... Meanwhile, friction between the West and North Korea should be interesting to observe, if a little terrifying. Memes have popped up all over the Internet speculating on whether we'll ever get to see the final season of Game of Thrones (scheduled for 2019), or whether the Earth will have been obliterated by that time.

Here at Satellite Evolution, we wish everyone a wonderful winter break. And remember to get lots of rest ready for 2018 – you're going to need it.



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