





DIFI Workshop at MILCOM 2026 Highlights Growing Digital IF Interoperability Across SATCOM

The October workshop welcomed more than 80 attendees for a keynote, technical presentations, demonstrations, and posters showcasing the expanding DIFI ecosystem and new applications of the standard.

The **Digital Intermediate Frequency Interoperability Consortium (DIFI)** held its MILCOM 2026 Workshop, *The Digital Transformation of SATCOM*, on October 12 in The National Capital Region, bringing together more than 80 attendees from across the satellite communications, defense, and technology communities.

The workshop highlighted the growing maturity of digital IF interoperability and its expanding role in the evolution of satellite ground systems. Through a keynote address, technical presentations, demonstrations, and posters, participants explored advances in interoperable digital IF technology, virtualized SATCOM applications, and next-generation antenna systems. Discussions also underscored the growing adoption of the DIFI standard beyond its original satellite gateway use case, including emerging applications in the terminal market.

The workshop followed DIFI's annual PlugFest at Keysight Technologies' facility in Santa Clara, California, where more than 30 DIFI-enabled devices from 18 companies were successfully tested across multiple operating profiles. Together, the PlugFest and MILCOM Workshop demonstrated the continued growth of the

DIFI ecosystem, increasing industry engagement, and progress toward a more interoperable and flexible digital SATCOM infrastructure.

The Workshop featured a Keynote Address from Matt Sipe – To The King LLC, as well as presentations, demonstrations, and posters from leading innovators across the SATCOM ecosystem.

A full list of speakers and presentations can be found on DIFI's website.







"DIFI goes from strength to strength, as we saw in the recent PlugFest in Santa Clara, with almost a doubling of the number of available DIFI compliant products. We struggled this year to keep within the limits of the MILCOM venue for the number of demonstrations and posters from participating vendors. The maturity and value of the specification is clearly starting to be appreciated, and forward thinkers are starting to apply DIFI beyond its original use case of the Satcom Gateway into the terminal market." - **Simon Swift**, Engineering Director, Digital Technologies, ETL Systems

"We shared some of the highlights of this year's annual DIFI PlugFest which was held just prior to MILCOM at Keysight's facility in Santa Clara, California. With over 30 DIFI-enabled devices from 18 different companies tested successfully over multiple operating profiles, it's clear that the DIFI ecosystem of suppliers is healthy and growing on a global basis. We had participants from Europe, the UK, North America and for the first time, Asia, attend which was terrific." - **Phil**

Lorch, Senior Director, Space and Satellite Business Segment, Keysight Technologies





ABOUT DIFI

The Digital Intermediate Frequency (IF) Interoperability Consortium, or DIFI, has created a standard that enforces interoperability on digital IF/RF technology. Digital IF was developed to overcome the limitations of analog systems but, today, vendor lock-in prevents it from delivering seamless interoperability and severely limits its adoption. A truly interoperable digital IF, on the other hand, will enable transformation to a virtualized ground segment, reducing the total cost of ownership and significantly boosting network and terminal agility and scalability. Compliance with the DIFI standard will ensure that satellite ground segments can seamlessly adapt to rapidly changing space-layer payloads, orbits, and constellations. Ultimately, DIFI promises to elevate the resilience, performance, and capabilities of satellite networks and enable a digital transformation that integrates satellites seamlessly into the larger telecom, IT and GIS markets.

A full list of DIFI members and information about membership can be found at https://dificonsortium.org/members/

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