Segment 5 – Crosscutting Weather Information Issues: Weather Policy

Presented to: Friends & Partners in Aviation Wx
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Policy Issues

• Controlling Product Proliferation
• Federal Guidance on Visualization of Gridded Data
• Manual vs Automated PIREPS
• Status of TAMDAR
• Major policy issues in NGATS
Controlling Product Proliferation

• R&D Program Goal = reduce number of products in operation as new products are implemented
  – Products partially overlapping existing products remain Supplementary
    • Examples: CIP, FIP, GTG
  – Products completely overlapping existing products replace current product and take on legacy product name
    • Example: Generate Convective Sigmet from NCWF2 rather than issue NCWF2 as a standalone product
  – Migrate toward replacing all products of a particular parameter with a single product suite
    • Example: Consolidated Convective Product
Federal Guidance on Visualization of Gridded Data

• Regulated users are required to use wx information from an “official source”
• Commercial providers perform value-added processing without altering basic content.
• New products being issued in gridded form requiring visualization software to display information
  – Great opportunity for tailored display and integration into DST
  – Also opportunity to commit display errors
• Solutions range from certification of visualization software to issuing display standards for voluntary compliance
• To be worked over next year+.
Manual vs Automated PIREPS

- Manual and Automated PIREPS of actual weather conditions are valuable for verifying forecasts and for warning other pilots.
- FAA’s strategy to improve the quality and quantity of such reports is to emphasize automated PIREPS
  - More objective regarding location and intensity
  - Less expensive in long-term
- MDCRS delivers well in excess of 100,000 observations per day
- TAMDAR, under cost/benefit review, holds promise
- 2nd Generation Water Vapor sensor currently under acquisition review
Major policy issues in NGATS

• Vertical integration (sensor, processor, communications, and display) all in one system will be supplanted.

• Horizontal integration is the direction for the future:
  – Looking at ways to outsource sensors.
  – Data assimilation/forecasting will be integrated into a virtual data cube
  – SWIM will provide communications between sensors, processors, and application platforms.
  – Applications platforms will operate on gridded data obtained from SWIM

• Significant reliance upon commercial entities for all four of the functions above.