Review of FAA Weather or Weather-Related Products from an RTO Perspective

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Friends and Partners of Aviation Weather Meeting
Introduction

• Not a critique of past or current RTO performance of individual projects
• Any incorrect status description or misrepresentation of facts is my fault
• Looking for common pitfalls based on actual experiences
• All products directly or indirectly weather-related
• Each has experienced one or more RTO “issues”
In-Situ Turbulence Reporting

• First work done in 1991
• First contract to install associated equipment and algorithms signed with commercial airline in 1995
• Competing methodologies, legal issues
• Information being collected today from several airlines (three? four?)
• Currently resides on EADDS in a password restricted area
• RTO – still in progress (18 years)
Traffic Management Advisor (TMA)

• TMA Build 1 rolled out to ZDV in 1990
• TMA Build 2 rolled out to ZFW in 1996
• TMA “operational nationwide” in 2007 (all continental U.S. ARTCCs)
• Current status
  – No national Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
  – No related updates to FAA Orders
• And…TMA is turned off in the presence of weather constraints
• RTO – “complete” (17 years)
National C&V

- Driven by Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) operators
- Initial momentum created NCV product on EADDS in 2006
- Currently “stuck” in SMS review with relatively low priority
- Why?
  - Limited scope (HEMS-only interest)
  - No NextGen angle
- RTO – still in progress (3+ years)
CIWS

- First work done in 2001
- Prototype status through 2005
- CIWS funding elimination proposed FEB 2006
- User (ATM, AOC) community feedback results in FAA position change on CIWS funding MAR 2006
- Still in prototype at WJHTC
- Scheduled to become operational in FY2010
- RTO – nearing completion (9 years)
RTO Land Mines

• Limited or no early end user involvement
• Driven by product looking for a problem to solve instead of a problem looking for a solution
• Unclear/incomplete User Requirements
• Unclear/incomplete Concept of Operations/Use (ConOps/ConUse)
• Safety Management System implications
ASK HARD QUESTIONS