Segment 5 – Crosscutting Weather Information Issues: Weather Policy

Federal Aviation Administration

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.**