Forecasting for De-icing

PROGRAM/PROJECT:
LEAD AGENCY: Northwest Airlines (NWA)
LEAD AGENCY POINT OF CONTACT: Tom Fahey, Manager Meteorology, Northwest Airlines, 612-726-3256, tom.fahey@nwa.com
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SERVICE AREA(S)/INITIATIVE(S)

- ***National Aviation Weather Initiatives:***
  4: 1,4,5,6

FUNDING

- ***Programmed/Planned ($'s/FY):*** /FY03 /FY04

TYPE OF PROGRAM/APPLICATION

Product Development

SCOPE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT

- ***What's being developed, procured, etc.:*** *forecasts in 1 hour increments out to 16 hours for percent probability of rime on descent, snowfall, rates of accumulation, freezing precipitation, total accumulations out to 24 hours, existence of frost, wind direction and gusts over 16kts.* Northwest Airlines, EWINS (Enhanced Weather Information System) Certified Aviation Meteorologists produce very detailed forecasts to support ground operations and operations control decision making. These forecasts are made 3 times a day for NWA's three main hub airports. During major winter storms, forecasts are made for 4 to 10 additional airports surrounding the major hubs and include most of the variables listed above as well as a graphical product depicting locations of light, moderate and heavy snowfall rates as well as freezing precipitation.
- ***How operations will be changed/improved:*** *very detailed forecasts to support ground operations and operations control decision making.* Reduces the impact of winter storms on airline operations.

PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- ***Basic guidance document for this program:*** NWA Meteorology Procedures Manual.
- ***Program/Project verification process:*** N/A
- ***Method used for end product validation:*** N/A
- ***Operational training for the user:*** NWA Meteorology Procedures Manual and semi annual General Refresher classes.

SCHEDULE/IMPLEMENTATION

- ***Next major program milestone:*** N/A
- ***Program becomes operational:*** Operational since 1993.
- ***Plans for further improvements:*** Increased use of web based technology for display and distribution of the products.