

Low Cloud Product (LCP)

PROGRAM/PROJECT: Satellite Meteorology and Climatology Division (SMCD),
[<http://orbit-net.nesdis.noaa.gov/arad/aradproj.html>]

LEAD AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)

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SERVICE AREA (S)/INITIATIVE (S)

- *National Aviation Weather Initiatives:*
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FUNDING

- *Programmed/Planned (\$'s/FY):* \$39K /FY 03; \$39K /FY 04; TBD /FY 05

TYPE OF PROGRAM/APPLICATION

- Product Development

SCOPE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT

- *What's being developed, procured, etc.:* an enhanced GOES fog and low cloud image product for nighttime use that will highlight areas of possible low ceilings using satellite infrared and surface temperature data. Large scale composite images for eventual use in AWIPS.
- *How will operations be changed/improved:* Increase safety by providing forecasters and weather specialists with a briefing and "situational awareness" tool to help determine instrument flight rule (IFR) conditions near airports and along major flight routes.

PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- *Basic guidance document for this program:* GOES Improved Measurement Product Assurance Plan (GIMPAP). Office of Research and Applications (ORA) Research Project Plan.
- *Program/Project verification process:* GIMPAP and NWS project reviews.
- *Method used for end product validation:* Pilot reports, METAR surface observations, NOAA-FSL Real-Time Verification System, and other satellite data.
- *Operational training for the user:* Periodic workshops sponsored by the National Weather Service, the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology Education and Training, the National Weather Association, and the American Meteorological Society. VISIT distance learning modules (now available via the Web).

SCHEDULE/IMPLEMENTATION

- *Next major program milestone:* Product demonstration via AWIPS late FY04
- *Program becomes operational:* TBD. Product is experimental but could become operational by late FY04 if funding is available. Implementation dependant on AWIPS Build schedules.
- *Plans for further improvements:* Reduce under-detection of IFR conditions at night. Temperature corrections for latitude parallax effects. Evaluation of Rapid Update Cycle-2 surface temperature data. Develop equivalent product for daytime use.