

Medium Intensity Airport Weather System (MIAWS)

PROGRAM/PROJECT: Terminal Business Service

LEAD AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

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SERVICE AREA/INITIATIVE

- ***National Aviation Weather Initiatives:***
6: 8

FUNDING

- ***Programmed/Planned (\$'s/FY):*** /FY04 /FY05

TYPE OF PROGRAM/APPLICATION

Acquisition/Decision Support

SCOPE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT

- ***What's being developed, procured, etc.:*** a weather processing system that incorporates new weather algorithms, human interfaces, and available NEXRAD data to provide precipitation intensity, storm motion, and storm motion predictions for smaller airports. The Medium Intensity Airport Weather System (MIAWS) is planned for installation at 40 Low Level Wind Shear Alert System (LLWAS) sites. MIAWS will be used at airports which will not receive either the Terminal Doppler Weather Radar or the Weather Systems Processor.
- ***How operations will be changed/improved:*** Provides accurate/timely storm intensity information without the need for interpretation or intensive training. The availability of this information will enhance the safety of operations, especially when used in conjunction with wind shear and microburst information available from the LLWAS.

PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- ***Basic guidance document for this program:*** Federal Acquisition Management System Program/Project Management Plan for the Medium Intensity Airport Weather System.
- ***Program's verification process:*** This program is being prototyped at MIT Lincoln Laboratory's Memphis facility in order to use the Integrated Terminal Weather System (ITWS) installed there. This provides a real time, "truth" type comparison of its output. Prototypes have also been installed at the Jackson, MS, Springfield, MO, and Little Rock AR airports, and are currently in use under the authority of a NAS change proposal.
- ***Method used for end product validation:*** As discussed above, the end product (storm intensity and motion) has been compared to the ITWS. The results of this comparison indicated that the MIAWS performance was as expected and was of a high enough quality to proceed to the prototype installation at the Jackson, MS airport.
- ***Operational training for the user:*** The training for users at Jackson, MS was provided by MIT/LL personnel. Training format and content for operational personnel, should the system be fielded, has not yet been determined.

SCHEDULE/IMPLEMENTATION

- ***Next major program milestone:*** TBD
- ***Program becomes operational:*** TBD
- ***Plans for further improvements:*** TBD