

Collaborative Radar Acquisition Field Test (CRAFT)

PROGRAM/PROJECT: [<http://kkd.ou.edu/craft.htm>]

LEAD AGENCY/COLLABORATING AGENCIES: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Oklahoma University Center for Analysis and Prediction of Storms (CAPS), National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)

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SERVICE AREA(S)/INITIATIVE(S)

- ***National Aviation Weather Initiatives:***
None

FUNDING

- ***Programmed/Planned (\$'s/FY):*** /FY 03 /FY 04

TYPE OF PROGRAM/APPLICATION

Proof-of-concept

SCOPE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT

- ***What's being developed, procured, etc:*** a prototype system for the real-time ingest, archival, and distribution of WSR-88D (NEXRAD) Level II radar data via the internet.
- ***How operations will be changed/improved:*** leads to the elimination of a data recorder at each radar site and provides direct archival and distribution of Level II data via the internet for numerical weather prediction and research.

PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- ***Basic guidance document for this program:*** Program plan developed by the Center for Analysis and Prediction of Storms and proposals developed jointly with the agencies listed above.
- ***Program/Project verification process:*** Periodic reviews by the agencies funding the project.
- ***Method used for end product validation:*** Data received by NCDC via the internet have already been validated as identical to those received on archive tapes.
- ***Operational training for the user:*** At the moment no user training is required. However, as CRAFT grows and the NEXRAD agencies embrace the concept, considerable effort will need to be expended to provide suitable software to the community for ingesting and analyzing Level II data.

SCHEDULE/IMPLEMENTATION

- ***Next major program milestone:*** Addition of more radars (ongoing); completion of data compression improvement and testing.
- ***Program becomes operational:*** Currently proof-of-concept only.
- ***Plans for further improvements:*** Efforts planned, on an experimental basis, to add a variety of FAA radars to the CRAFT effort, including the ASR-9, ASR-10, TDWR, and ARSR-4.