

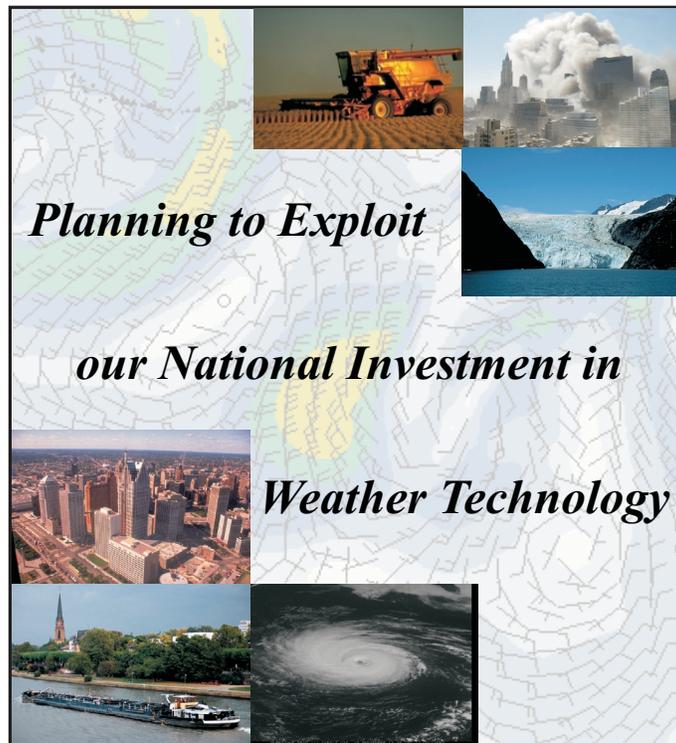
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP ON STRATEGY FOR PROVIDING ATMOSPHERIC INFORMATION



Planning to Exploit

our National Investment in

Weather Technology

December 3-5, 2001
Crystal City, Virginia

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OF THE
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Planning to Exploit our National Investment in Weather Technology

December 3-5, 2001

Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport
Crystal City, Virginia

Washington, DC
March, 2002

FOREWORD

The Workshop on Strategy for Providing Atmospheric Information was held on December 3-5, 2001 at the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel, Crystal City, Virginia. The theme of the Forum was "*Planning to Exploit our National Investment in Weather Technology.*" A cross-section of more than 150 people participated in the workshop, including representatives of the government, private, academic, and other sectors. The workshop was sponsored by the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM).

The purpose of the workshop was to address issues identified in studies conducted by OFCM and the National Research Council (NRC) as the 21st Century approached. In particular, the NRC report entitled *The Atmospheric Sciences Entering the Twenty-First Century* proposed the following initiative: "OFCM should lead a thorough examination of the issues that arise as the national system for providing atmospheric information becomes more distributed...and...develop a strategic plan." The workshop examined how the ever-increasing inventory of atmospheric information could be accessed and used by those who need it. The issue was divided into two parts—1) getting the information to where it is needed and 2) insuring that users can read and understand that information.

The overarching goal of the workshop was to *provide a framework for developing a strategy leading to an optimal 21st Century national atmospheric information system.* To achieve this goal, the following objectives were pursued:

- Introduce and define the issue of providing atmospheric information in an evolving, decentralized national system.
- Consider atmospheric information issues in the context of a wide spectrum of meteorological disciplines or areas of application.
- Explore collection and distribution methodologies and related issues focused on making atmospheric information more universally available.
- Investigate the application of standards, formats and other mechanisms as agents for making atmospheric information more universally useful.
- Propose a coordination methodology for use in developing a strategy for providing atmospheric information.

In light of the need for interoperability with disciplines related to the weather, which is driven by important crosscutting issues, it is appropriate that "atmospheric information" should not imply rigid constraints. In this context, the term "environmental information" might be more appropriate.

This document summarizes the proceedings of the workshop, captures the recommendations of the breakout sessions and panels, and summarizes the issues and actions that were addressed and proposed at the workshop.

I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to the panelists, moderators, rapporteurs, and attendees whose lively involvement, interaction, discussion, and interest made this workshop a success.

Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services
and Supporting Research

PROCEEDINGS
of the
Workshop on
Strategy for Providing Atmospheric Information

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