

Summary of issues discussed at the AMS Space Weather Enterprise Session, 01/09/13

The Space Weather commercial sector articulated the following issues:

- The space weather community is composed of world-class practitioners with a deep understanding of the science behind space weather.
- The commercial/private sector develops instruments, technical products, forecasts, and applications through capital investments, and these investments should not be compromised through competition from the government labs.
- Government may find it more efficient to go to the commercial sector for instruments, products, forecasts, and data.
- Government should not create tailored products and leave that for commercial space weather providers, especially if these products are already available within the commercial sector.
- Commercial sector recognizes and appreciates that NOAA has a partnership policy.
- Commercial sector would like to have partnership policies with all government agencies similar to those the commercial sector has with NOAA.
- The commercial sector would like to have a role in interagency agreements and the National Space Weather Program.
- Government should have open, recurring opportunities so commercial sector providers can compete, rather than government relying on long-standing contractors.
- Agencies should not compete with commercial sector for non-federal funding; agencies should refer commercial sector funders to the American Commercial Space Weather Association.
- Government should team up with the commercial sector and academia to ensure the long-term viability of the space weather enterprise.

Strengths of the weather and climate enterprise include:

- Regular communication between the sectors
- The spirit of collaboration and cooperation with a non-adversarial approach to ongoing discussions/communications
- Open data that is reliable, redundant, timely, consistent formats, and global and actively discusses potential new data resources
- The dividing lines on division of duties between sectors is continually evolving and ongoing, open discussions within the enterprise help to maintain viability over time

Keys to Success (lessons learned from the meteorological community):

- A deeper understanding of each sector's roles
- NOAA partnership policy has been very helpful
- NWS directives allows commercial (private) sector a better understanding of policies and products

- NOAA Science Advisory Board includes Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) consisting of government/academic/ commercial sectors that develops and communicates a wide range of environmental information service issues throughout the weather enterprise.
- Communication through NWS Partners and Family of Service and other Collaborative meetings
- Public Information Statements are helpful, providing service change notices and soliciting comments includes commercial sector in process
- The Weather Coalition – brings together industry and academia to urge Congress and Executive Branch to fund national initiatives. Other organizations such as AWCIA and NCIM provide advocacy on behalf of their constituents as well.

Challenges for government agencies:

- Government directives are the “law” and must be followed
- Government must comply with rules that require equity
- Government makes decisions that can impact commodity markets
- Government has laws about conducting interactions with advisory committees/structures

Opportunities:

- The AMS Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise (CWCE) can continue to offer a venue for furthering the discussion between the government, commercial (private), and academic sectors on the provision of space weather products and services.
- Include space weather in the NWS Partners meeting and NOAA SAB

Questions to be addressed:

- How does the government interact with and obtain commercial services in the meteorology sector, and is there a parallel for space weather services?
- How can the AMS Enterprise Commission help the Space Weather Enterprise evolve and avoid some of the problems and misunderstandings that have already been addressed and overcome by the meteorological community during the past 10 years?
- How can we ensure an appropriate partnership in the development and delivery of products?
- How can we ensure common operational practices for data exchange between government and commercial operational centers?
- How can we ensure that the commercial sector has a voice in determining the direction of the national space weather enterprise?