Questions and Answers
April 15, 2010, NWS Virtual Partners Meeting on EMWIN Transition

Q: **If you had to choose the most important point or "screaming message" from the presentation, what would it be?**

A: The transition for GOES-East is on or about April 26, 2010. If you do not have an EMWIN–N system, find out if you can point your antenna to GOES-West. If so and still get good data, use GOES-West as your data source until you can get an EMWIN N system. If you can't point to GOES –West, use the Byte Blaster until GOES-12 is relocated to 60 degrees.

Q: **I'm in the DC area, are there any planned conferences to learn how other jurisdictions are using EMWIN?**

A: Not at the present time, but there is a conference near Cleveland, Ohio sometime this year. The EMWIN user list will post the date when this comes up.

Q: **Where do you go to download Byte Blaster and how do you access the Byte Blaster network?**

A: Go to the EMWIN Vendor page at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/emwin/winven.htm and look for the following vendors.

Weather Message offers the Byte Blaster software on their website.

RealEMWIN software supports the Byte Blaster ingest and has been marketing software for EMWIN from almost the beginning of EMWIN.

Another possibility is Storm Alert's InterWarn. Santos is testing the software to determine if it supports Byte Blaster.

There are also freeware downloads of the original Weathernode Byte Blaster floating around on the Internet. Although it still works, it is no longer supported and not recommended for operational use.

Q: **Will the Byte Blaster network increase bits per second speed to 19.2kbs? If so, will the software need to be upgraded as well?**

A: Yes it will increase to 19.2. No update is necessary. The current Byte Blaster receive software will work as is.

Q: **What vendors are currently selling the EMWIN-N equipment? Zephyrus doesn't list anything at their website from what I could just see.**

A: Werner Labs is the only current seller. Zephyrus is still working on their design.

Q: **Any ideas on new products like radar, satellite?**

A: There will be regional radar images available. More imagery to come as it develops.

Q: **What are the new coordinates of Goes 13? Will they be the same coordinates as Goes 12 once the move is complete?**

A: Current coordinates for GOES-13 are .03 degrees latitude, -78.44 degrees longitude. Yes, same as GOES-12 once it gets to 75 degrees.

Q: When will GOES 12 park at 60 degrees west? One of our people can only look east because of some obstructions.

A: GOES 12 should be there around May 21 if everything goes on schedule. It will not be turned off until April 26 and will drift east at .5 degrees per day. It will turn back on after it moves east 7 degrees from current location- around May 5. Theoretically, you could track it by hand by moving the dish a couple of degrees ahead and let the satellite signal "drift" into the beam-width of the dish. Depending on the type of dish, you might only have to move it two or three times until GOES 12 gets to 60 degrees.

Q: **Is there a file that lists the NWS weather observation reporting sites?**

A: Lists and maps of weather observation reporting sites can be found at http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/weather/asos
You can also find more information about weather observation sites on the Automated Surface Observing System web page at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/asos

Q: **Some of the products (fire weather) are somewhat difficult to interpret. Are there resources that explain how to interpret/use many of the (NWS) text products on the web?**

A: NWS products and services are described in detail at http://www.weather.gov/directives/010/010.htm
For Fire Weather, click NWS Directive 10-401 Fire Weather Services Product Specification.