

January 3, 2001 E/SP3:JW

MEMORANDUM FOR: GOES Data Collection System (DCS) Users

FROM: Kay Metcalf
GOES DCS Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Minutes of the 93rd GOES DCS Technical Working Group Meeting, October 19, 2000

I. Opening Remarks - Kay Metcalf, DCS Operations Manager (NESDIS/DSD)

The 93rd meeting of the DCS Technical Working Group (TWG) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the NASA Visitor Center, Wallops, Virginia. The NOAA Wallops CDA was host for the meeting. The TWG was well attended with thirty-four members representing the United States and Canada.

Welcoming remarks were given by Kay Metcalf who is the NOAA/DCS Operations Manager. Kay announce the arrival of V. L. Clark's new grandson, and then introduced Letecia Reeves and Carol Dash-Green who assist Kay in the day to day DCS activities at the Suitland, Maryland facility. Kay told the members that TWG minutes are now available on the DCS web site <http://noaasis.noaa.gov/>. She then reviewed the proposed meeting agenda. In response, Mike Basileo suggested having the user reports in the afternoon rather than in the morning.

George Linvill, next welcomed all on behalf of the Wallops CDA. He announced a that a tour of the NASA/NOAA facilities would be available in the afternoon. Rick White then presented a briefing on the NOAA Wallops functions with emphasis on the DCS support activities.

II. STIWG Report

Dave Wingerd summarized the previous day's STIWG meeting. The STIWG currently has \$123,000 in their account. The DOMSAT support has been extended for six months, with another six one-month extensions available after that. The new DOMSAT contract is expected to cost \$137,000 for the first year, and should be in place within 6 months. Dave polled the eight federal, two state, and the Canadian members in attendance for pledges to contribute some funds to complete the DOMSAT costs. There were four who pledged to give additional money. He next reported that the high data rate demod contract is essentially complete except for some documentation. Dave reported that Bonnie Mason is the Chairperson in the Terms of Reference

effort. Bonnie is generating a draft document for review by members. Dave announced that his term as STIWG Chair was coming to an end, and that the Bureau of Land Management would be next year's chair, with the Forest Service as secretary.

III. User Reports

A common remark during the user reports was member's intentions of going to high data rate reporting, predominantly 300 bps. Kay announced the recent successful testing of SEIMAC high data rate DCPs.

Mark Heggli announced an alert conference that is going to be held in Columbus, Ohio during May 16-18, 2001. It is planned to hold the spring STIWG/TWG meetings in conjunction with the alert conference, and Mark suggested early hotel reservations. Mark also remarked that it is taking a long time to get DCP ID's. Kay responded that ID delays are usually caused by the need to generate new MOAs, and lack of assignment space.

Ernie Dreyer next reported on his latest work with DRGS software development.

Jim Doty notified users that he needs used Sutron receivers.

IV. NESDIS Report

a. System Status - Kay Metcalf (NESDIS/DSD)

Kay Metcalf announce the availability of system report copies within the conference center. Kay then went on to state the importance of keeping the PDTs complete and current especially as DAPSII comes closer to reality. Kay said that she is adding more users all the time such as Chile, and Venezuela. Ernie Dryer voiced a request that the percentage of system capacity use be posted on the web for user reference. Kay will be renewing the NESDIS efforts to remove time slots that have been inactive for some time.

Ernie Dryer asked about dual high data rate and 100 bps channel usage. The answer was that dual channel testing still has to be performed. There are issues such as quality measurements being available to only one channel at a time, and some compatibility problems between the demods and DAPS which must be overcome.

Kay stated that new 100 bps assignments would be issued for one year after two high data rate DCP manufacturers have been certified. She intends to trust users to give-up their 100 bps assignments when installing high data rate DCPs, but she will be available to work individually with each user.

Larry Cedrone had the opinion that NESDIS should publish high data rate usage standards prior to their implementation. He also supported a general format.

Sally Nolan asked how many channels were being planned for high data rate usage. Kay responded that there would be four of the 300 bps channel on both east and west GOES, one of the 1200 bps channels on both east and west, and two or three random (300 bps) channels on each GOES.

Action: Kay will develop a means of presenting a measure of system capacity usage.

Action: Kay will include a general high data rate policy on the web.

b. Spacecraft Status - John Tsui (NESDIS/OSO)

John reported that GOES-8 (75 degrees east) had been in operation for 6 ½ years and would have station keeping maintenance in December. It is estimated to have 2 to 2 ½ years of life remaining. GOES-10 (135 degrees west) is healthy and functioning normally. GOES-11 could be launched in early May 2001, with a possible storage beginning August 15. GOES-9 is parked with a momentum wheel problem, but does have enough propellant for stabilization. GOES-N has recently passed its thermal-vacuum tests.

Users can go to the SOCC web site at <http://www.osd.noaa.gov/index40.htm> for up-to-date satellite information.

c. DAPS II Contract Status - Michael Knowles (NOAA/SAO)

Mike Knowles, the DAPS II Contract Officer, and Craig Keeler demonstrated the DAPS II procurement web site which had allowed a virtually paperless process. He requested e-mail input from TWG members to help facilitate the best possible final design decisions with ISI, the developer. Mike introduced the DAPS II team as Warren Dorsey, the COTR, Kay Metcalf and Al McMath, assistant COTRs, and Craig Keeler and Jim Wydick, consultants. He emphasized that push and pull technology would be featured on DAPS II. The contract cost to ISI was given as \$4.4 million. Mike informed the TWG that ISI is responsible for installing a website which will show the status of the DAPS II development, and is open to the public. Their recently announced site is: <http://www.integ.com/dapsii/>. He commented on the DOMSAT procurement by saying that the maximum contract duration allowed is five years.

d. DAPS Updates - Al McMath (Wallops CDA)

Al announce that the new Vitel improved test transmitters are working at Wallops. He also reported on Phil Whaley doing high data rate certification testing at SEIMAC in Canada. Al reported that a problem in DAPS has been isolated and is being corrected. In the meantime the LAN between DAPS A and DAPS B was brought down until verification that it is not generating problems in DCS data processing. Al requested comments from the DCS users regarding the impact of losing the NIST/GOES time code within 3 years.

Al also requested comments on decommutation of DCS data in order to help specify requirements to the DAPS II developer, ISI. There are plans to include all of the currently available functions. He reported that DOMSAT e-mail will not be included in DAPS II since the TWG does not require it, but the bulletins will be kept. The CLI will be retained based on TWG discussions, as well as for field use. Al gave a short discussion of the push/pull and FTP concepts that are driving the DAPS II design. All system users will have 5 MB of memory for Internet applications such as FTP.

Al then gave a brief discussion of the new Wallops/CDA beta test web site that will allow dial-in interface type transaction for users. Al would like comments from users that try the site. The URL is <http://dcs.noaa.gov/>. Al then gave a brief review of LRGS activities at the Wallops CDA, along with a quick summary of the DAPS II system configuration <http://cdadata.wcda.noaa.gov/>.

e. Wallops CDA - George Linvill (Wallops CDA).

George Linvill reported that there had recently been some lightning interference which affected DCS data processing. Also, some T1 communication problems resulted in delayed data to Silver Spring. The new antennae which are designed to withstand hurricane force winds have been installed and painted. There have been an increase in DCS data processing problems recently, and he requested that the platform data tables be brought up to date.

f. High Data Rate - Warren Dorsey (NESDIS/OSD).

Warren Dorsey presented status of the high data rate contract with Vitel. There are seven of the 300 bps demods, and four of the 1200 bps demods that are in fabrication. Additionally, there are twenty-three more of the 300 bps demods, and six more of the 1200 bps demods on order. The high data rate development is considered finished now, as it moves into the certification phase.

V. Data and Time of Next TWG meeting

The date for the next STIWG meeting is February 7, and the next TWG meeting will be Thursday, February 8, 2001 in Sacramento, California.