

NCAR/EOL
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SUBJECT : Meeting, Wednesday, 13 January 2010

PREDICT UPDATE MEETING - January

PARTICIPANTS AND DISTRIBUTION

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Baeuerle, Brigitte	NCAR	Bell, Michael	NPS
Boynton, Henry	NCAR	Bradford, Mark	NCAR
Cooper, Al	NCAR	Davis, Chris	NCAR
Jensen, Jorgen	NCAR	Meitín, José	NCAR
Moore, Jim	NCAR	Rockwell, Alison	NCAR
Rogers, Dave	NCAR	Schanot, Allen	NCAR
Sharpe, Kathy	NCAR	Slaten, Brandon	NCAR
Stossmeister, Greg	NCAR	Thurn, Sandra	NCAR
Williams, Steve	NCAR		

MEETING SUMMARY AND OVERALL DECISIONS:
Monthly PREDICT Meeting – update on site survey trip to St. Croix, RAF Flight Planning Meeting and educational activities.

ACTION ITEMS:

New:

- AI.24: send Buccaneer quote to RAF (Albright) for further arrangements (Meitín)
- AI.25: send Seajet shipping info to RAF and make sure ISF is in the loop (Baeuerle)
- AI.26: finish and publish site survey trip report (Meitín)
- AI.27: check on seat availability for second dropsonde operator (Schanot)
- AI.28: make Flight planning meeting presentation available on PREDICT website (Meitín)
- AI.29: put together an E&O outline (Rockwell)
- AI.30: set up meeting with PREDICT PIs to discuss E&O opportunities (Rockwell)
- AI.31: check on funding status for CVI (Jensen)
- AI.32: arrange for conference call set up at IHC side meeting (Davis to Rob Rogers)
- AI.33: determine what data are missing if NRL satellite products from J. Hawkins cannot be obtained (Davis, Williams)
- AI.34: Set up Data Display meeting after IHC (Meitín)
- AI.35: Share Draft Special Funds request with PIs (Baeuerle, Meitín)

Previous/In Progress:

- AI.3: Link PREDICT from EOL front page (Meitín)
- AI.4: Possibility of GISMOS install on GV during for PREDICT (Jensen)
- AI.7: Determine/prioritize data for field catalog inclusion (Stossmeister)
- AI.10: Discuss near real time data needs in more detail and make necessary arrangements (e.g., with NOAA) (Meitín, Jensen)
- AI.13: Arrangements with NOAA/HRD to obtain Lower Fuselage radar data (Meitín)

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- AI.14: Post Miami Meeting Summary on PREDICT website (Meitín)
 AI.16: Website link – go to PREDICT page, not OFAP documentation (Meitín)
 AI.19: Create an outline for the Ops Plan (Davis)
 AI.20: Send GV payload layout plan on aircraft to José for posting (Davis, Meitín)
 AI.21: EOL to provide needed information to Davis (various)
 AI.22: coordinate xchat servers among agencies (Bradford)
 AI.23: Invite New York ATC folks to follow up meeting in either Savannah or Tucson (Meitín)
- Completed:*
- AI.1: Create Email Alias for PREDICT (Meitín) – predict@eol.ucar.edu
 AI.2: Create PREDICT website (Meitín) - <http://www.eol.ucar.edu/deployment/field-deployments/field-projects/predict>
 AI.5: Schedule next PREDICT meeting (Baeuerle)
 AI.6: Determine date for site survey in January (Jensen)
 AI.8: Provide GRIP and PREDICT documentation to Greg Jenkins to help with network proposal tie into these projects (Davis)
 AI.9: Follow up with NSF on whether there is additional funding for an E&O outreach for PREDICT (Baeuerle)
 AI.11: Follow up with Greg on students for dropsonde operations (Baeuerle)
 AI.12: Jenkins to follow up with NSF on additional funding for radiosondes from DP (Jenkins)
 AI.15: Schedule meeting with pilots at RAF for early January (Baeuerle)
 AI.17: Provide CARCAH contact information (Steve Feuer) to Thompson (Meitín)
 AI.18: arrange for dropsonde data to get into operational forecasting – this is now done routinely (Williams)

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AGENDA ITEM 1: UPDATE ON ST CROIX SITE SURVEY (MEITÍN, SCHANOT, DAVIS)

A St Croix site survey was conducted on 5/6 January 2010. Participants included Chris Davis, Allen Schanot, Henry Boynton and José Meitín.

Fixed Base Operator: Despite other reports, there is only one operational FBO - Bohlke International Airways on the island. Appropriate fuel and amounts are available. A second FBO has been shut down due to the death of its owner. While there is a hangar available in St. Croix, it is currently in legal limbo as it belongs to the closed down FBO. Aircraft operations are possible 24/7 although the tower will be unmanned during certain hours. There is a big ramp that can accommodate several aircraft.

Airport Security: Airport security arrangements will be similar to what was done during ADELE in Melbourne, FL. Airport Security will be handled through the airport manager and requires on site background checks and finger printing to obtain a badge. Cost will be \$35/person. Only a subset of the PREDICT crew will obtain a badge, the rest will have to be escorted by badged personnel.

Lodging: PREDICT personnel will be staying at the Buccaneer Hotel in Christiansted (<http://TheBuccaneer.com/>). The hotel has about 200 rooms of which 60 are in the main building. The hotel will charge within the allowed per diem rate (\$135/night plus an 18.25% tax), which comes with free high speed internet, a breakfast discount and waiver of the extra person fee. The hotel is about a 30 minute drive from the airport. José will send the bid to Gerry Albright at RAF for Shannon to make the arrangements for EOL staff (AI.24).

Ops Center Space: Since there is no space at the airport, the Ops Center will be located at the Buccaneer Hotel. One conference room is guaranteed, a second one can be made available. The conference room will be made available free of charge. Guest room Internet is at 3.5 Megabits and EOL will look into increased bandwidth for the Ops Center.

Rental cars: Rental cars are available through Hertz. Various car sizes are available. The franchise owner promised better rates than available through Hertz Corporate. Driving is on the left but cars are American-made and have the steering wheel on the left.

Misc.: Restaurants require driving from the hotel. Fed Ex and a US postal service are available in town. There is also a Radio Shack, an Office Max, Kmart and several hardware stores, building center.

Cell phone coverage: T-Mobile, Verizon, Spring and AT&T all have coverage.

Shipping: Shipping will be done from Florida; there is one trip per week to the St Croix container port. RAF plans to ship three seatainers filled with gas cylinders, GPU, an air conditioning unit, and the tow truck. Randy (RAF) will be in charge of shipping; we need to make sure that dropsondes are included in these shipping arrangements (AI.25).

Time Zone: St Croix is on Atlantic standard time, i.e., East Coast Daylight Savings.

The trip report is in draft form (AI.26).

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AGENDA ITEM 2: FLIGHT PLANNING MEETING

A flight planning meeting was conducted at RAF on 11 January 2010. One of the issues that came up was that flying through anvils (turbulence) at 39K ft was too risky but RAF safety regulations state that only 4 sondes per hour can be released from above 40K ft due to access to the baggage compartment (launch tube location) in the G-V. RAF safety committee had a follow up meeting and it was decided that PREDICT will be given a one-time waiver to drop sondes every 10 minutes from above 40K ft (6/hr). This regulation will be re-evaluated after the project. Dropsonde operations (frequency) may be too much for a single operator, so we need to check on the availability of a seat for a second dropsonde person (AI.27). During double crewing period (1-15 Sept), turn-around between consecutive flights will be about 2 hours – driven primarily by refueling. The presentation given by Chris Davis during this meeting will be made available through the PREDICT website (AI.28)

AGENDA ITEM 3: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Brigitte got an OK from Brad Smull (NSF) to add some of Alison Rockwell's time to the PREDICT Special Funds request. EOL envisions a similar effort to what was done for HIPPO (<http://hippo.ucar.edu/>) including videos, interviews with PIs, image narrations etc. FPS will also pursue media outreach and invitations to local schools and universities (1 University, 2 High Schools, 3 Junior High Schools and 12 elementary schools on the island). Other possibilities include a public lecture (e.g., at a library) and scientific lectures for undergraduate and graduate students. Alison will put together an initial plan (AI.29) and set up a separate meeting with Chris (AI.30) and others to discuss various aspects of the E&O component.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PAYLOAD

There is still uncertainty about funding for the Counterflow Virtual Impactor (CVI, Twohy) and who will actually support/operate the instrument during the field campaign. Jensen will contact Smull to find out (AI.31).

No decision has been made yet on participation of GISMOS (Haase). RAF needs to follow up with maintenance on whether there are any long-term effects with respect to repeatedly removing heating panels/metal plates (this goes back to AI.4).

AGENDA ITEM 5: OPERATIONS PLAN

Chris is working on the Ops Plan and hopes to have at least the flight plans available by the end of January. These flight plans will be discussed at the 64th Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference (IHC) will take place in Savannah, Georgia during the first week of March. Flight plans will be scenario-based considering the possibility of six aircraft. Flight plans will use simple strategies that are adaptable to all aircraft. The current plan at the IHC is to meet with FAA/ ATC/CARCAH and flight personnel on Monday morning from 10 am to 1 pm ET to talk about aircraft coordination, operations and forecasting requirements. Additional time has been set aside in case further discussions are needed (Tuesday 7-9 pm; Wednesday 7 – 9 am). EOL participation in the meeting will include Ed Ringleman, Steve Thompson, RAF Project Manager, and José Meitín. José will work through NOAA/AOC to make sure FAA personnel is invited (refers back to AI.23). It was suggested to arrange for teleconferencing capabilities to allow for remote participants (AI.32).

The PREDICT PIs are suggesting sequential operations, with the GV taking off early. This plan will impact both NASA and NOAA operations which would move into evening/night time operations. Another opportunity to discuss flight operations is the upcoming GRIP

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Science meeting which is scheduled for 27/28 January 2010 in Los Angeles. Mike Montgomery, Meitín, Baeuerle (representing EOL Dropsonde / Global Hawk) will attend.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROJECT DATA

ECMWF data – During the T-PARC project, Sarah Jones from ECMWF was funded to produce model outputs and convert them into products. Sarah is interested in participating in PREDICT but will need some funding to do the work. Steve Williams will get in contact with Sarah and see who needs to be contacted at ECMWF to collaborate and what it takes to get hold of certain products.

A final list of all field catalog products is due to EOL about 4-6 weeks before the project starts. EOL prefers a more staged approach to have ample times to set up data ingestion.

Invest area data need to be identified as well. Jeff Hawkins provided those for T-PARC but would need approx. 50K to do similar work in PREDICT. Chris Velden can provide many of these data. The Navy products were very useful in T-PARC because of the option to super impose. It will be helpful to determine what products are missing if we cannot get some of the products from the Navy (AI.33).

AGENDA ITEM 7: OPS CENTER DISPLAY

A meeting will be scheduled after the IHC to determine what data and displays are needed in the Operations Center (AI.34) and available to the onboard mission coordinator. EOL suggests using Google Earth, which requires data conversion into kml files. It will also be helpful to find out what NOAA and NASA require.

AGENDA ITEM 8: UPDATE ON OLD ACTION ITEMS

AI.22: Coordinate Xchat servers among agencies (Bradford) – Mark has not gotten in contact with anybody but needs to know who the appropriate persons are. José met with Alan Goldstein (NOAA/AOC/SED manager) at the AMS annual meeting. The contact person at AOC is Sean McMillan. For NASA chat servers, Mark previously communicated with UND and NASA folks.

Next PREDICT Meeting: 18 February 2010, 9 am in FL1 – 2133.