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IPS MeteoStar
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Press Release

IPS MeteoStar and Space Environmental Technologies Announce New Space Weather Products for Commercial Aviation.

Boulder CO, April 30, 2008: IPS MeteoStar, Inc. (IPSM; http://www.meteostar.com) of Colorado and Space Environment Technologies, LLC (SET; http://SpaceWx.com) of California are pleased to announce a new premium space weather products service to reduce operating expenses for commercial aviation. This capability optimizes pre-flight air routing efficiency for assured communications sensitive routes to easily comply with post-9/11 communication requirements.

All air carriers in and out of U.S. airspace are mandated to maintain reliable communications over the entire flight route (FAR 121.99). Most international flights, but particularly those between North America and Asia traversing northern polar routes above 82N latitude, require the use of high frequency (HF) data links, along with satellite communications, to maintain reliable communications. Regional and hemispheric HF communications can be disrupted or lost during severe space weather events produced by large solar flares. Under these conditions, commercial aircraft must use alternate routes that are longer and less fuel-efficient with the added penalty of reduced passengers, reduced cargo, and more crew hours. Using this new service, commercial aviation now has up-to-the-minute and 72-hour global forecasts of HF radio frequency ranges available along specific routes. This information, linked to the NOAA space weather decision scales, allows air carriers to minimize costly last minute communications-driven rerouting.

The details of the service, the Communication Alert and Prediction System (CAPS), were presented at the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center's Space Weather Workshop. SET's CAPS information is hosted by IPSM's Leading Environmental Analysis and Display System (LEADS) aviation operations software. The LEADS toolkit provides weather forecasters with a comprehensive suite of meteorological ingest, customization, visualization, and distribution software. LEADS provides the professional interface into SET's advanced space weather analysis and forecasting technologies. SET and their affiliates provide physics-based solar flare irradiances, their evolution forecast, physics based ionosphere electron data, HF frequency restrictions, and low altitude scintillation (interferes with HF and other satellite communications frequencies). To see the latest updates and news on these exciting advances see CAPS online at http://terra1.spacenvironment.net/~ionops/ and LEADS at http://www.meteostar.com.

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