

MEMBERS OF ACCUWEATHER TEAM VISIT NASA SHORT-TERM PREDICTION RESEARCH AND TRANSITION (SPoRT) CENTER (email to:

andrew.molthan@nasa.gov/256-961-7474): On Thursday, December 3, the NASA Short-term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) Center provided an overview presentation to two members of the leadership team at AccuWeather. Visitors included Mr. Jonathan Porter, Vice President for Innovation and Development, and Mr. Dan DePodwin, Manager, Forecast Systems Optimization. The AccuWeather team members were given a presentation on SPoRT's history, current activities, and future goals, and following the presentation, discussions focused on areas of interest AccuWeather may have in NASA/SPoRT capabilities and research to operations concepts. Guests also took the opportunity to visit the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in Huntsville, Alabama within the National Space Science & Technology Center, where they heard additional details of our strong collaborative partnership facilitated by colocation with their office and the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) Department of Atmospheric Science.

TWO SCIENTISTS SELECTED FOR SENIOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS (IEEE) GEOSCIENCE AND REMOTE SENSING SOCIETY (GRSS) (email to: gary.jedlovec@nasa.gov /256 961-7966):

Dr. Gary Jedlovec's (ZP11) and Dr. Rahul Ramachandran (ZP11) memberships in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) were recently advanced to the grade of Senior Member. The grade of Senior Member recognizes the scientist's professional maturity in the IEEE-designated field for a total of 10 years during which he has demonstrated 5 years of significant performance. The Society identified Dr. Jedlovec's accomplishments in transition of research data to operations, disaster response activities, associated peer-reviewed publications, and Society functions in this advancement. Dr. Ramachandran is being recognized for his leadership and expertise in computer science and information science, his peer-reviewed publications and his Society functions. Less than 10% of all society members have reached the senior grade level. The IEEE GRSS local chapter will recognize this advancement at their upcoming December meeting.

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS) LIGHTNING IMAGING SENSOR (LIS) SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED COMMANDING DURING PAYLOAD RACK CONTROL UNIT (PRCU) TEST (mail to: rich.blakeslee@nasa.gov / 256-961-7962):

The International Space Station (ISS) Lightning Imaging Sensor (LIS) team passed a major milestone on Tuesday, December 08, 2015 by successfully demonstrating command and control of the LIS instrument during the Payload Rack Control Unit (PRCU) end-to-end test of the communications with the newly established LIS Payload Operations Control Center in Huntsville, Alabama. In April 2013, a space-qualified flight spare LIS was selected to fly on the ISS to take advantage of unique capabilities provide by the Space Station including its high inclination orbit and ability to provide real time lightning data to operational users, as well as serve as a scientific follow-on to the highly successful Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) LIS. LIS will be launched to ISS on a Space X rocket in June 2016 as a hosted payload on the Department of Defense Space Test Program-Houston 5 (STP-H5) mission. The science mission for ISS LIS is funded by the NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD).

PRECIPITATION MEASUREMENT MISSIONS (PMM) SCIENCE TEAM

AWARD (email to: andrew.molthan@nasa.gov/256-961-7474): Members of the NASA Short-term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) Center team received a three-year award from the ROSES 2015: PMM Science Team solicitation to continue work examining and refining cloud microphysics schemes used in numerical weather prediction. The team includes Dr. Brian Colle (PI, Stony Brook University of New York), Dr. Aaron Naeger (Co-I, University of Alabama in Huntsville), and Dr. Andrew Molthan (Collaborator, MSFC/ZP11), who will focus on continued use of field campaign and NASA satellite measurements for the refinement of the prediction of precipitation from these models. This funded activity also leverages broader SPoRT efforts in operational numerical weather prediction topics of interest to partners within NOAA's National Weather Service.

OLYMPEX FIELD CAMPAIGN (email to: walt.petersen@nasa.gov/256-961-7408): The Global Precipitation Mission (GPM) Olympic Mountains Experiment (OLYMPEX) Field Campaign, led by Walt Petersen (ZP11), successfully flew the first ever triple aircraft mission (NASA ER-2, NASA DC-8, University of North Dakota Citation) under the GPM Core satellite platform in a region of complex, heavy precipitation over the Olympic Mountains of Washington State. The MSFC Advanced Microwave Precipitation Radiometer (AMPR) radiometer (Timothy Lang and Brent Roberts, ZP11) participated in these flights collecting data from the high altitude vantage point of the ER-2.

NASA INNOVATION AWARD CELEBRATION (email to: paul.f.tatum@nasa.gov/256-961-7064): ZP11 personnel participated in the NASA Innovation Award Celebration video conference with NASA Headquarters. In attendance were Charlie Bolden, Robert Lightfoot, Lisa Roe, and David Radzanowski. Paul Tatum (ZP11) is the lead for the Ferro-Bearing team that produced a method for testing cube sat propulsion at the MSFC Flight Robotics Lab. The team was selected as an award recipient in the Lean Forward, Fail Smart category. The team video submission was shown to NASA leadership. Mr. Tatum answered questions from Administrator Bolden, Associate Administrator Robert Lightfoot and Deputy Associate Administrator Lisa Roe regarding innovation and collaboration at the Agency.