ZP11/Jim Smoot/Weekly Notes
4/22/2014

THE LIGHTNING INSTRUMENT PACKAGE (LIP) INTEGRATED ON NASA ER-2 AIRCRAFT (mail to: rich.blakeslee@nasa.gov / 256-961-7962): The Lightning Instrument Package was easily integrated onto NASA's high altitude ER-2 aircraft in preparation of our participation in the Integrated Precipitation and Hydrology EXperiment (IPHEX). Following the integration of other instrumentation on the aircraft during the week of April 21, a checkout flight is planned for April 25 or April 28. The IPHEX field campaign, which runs from May 1 to June 15, supports ground validation for NASA's Global Precipitation Mission (GPM). The LIP was upgraded in 2010 to be fully networked-enabled under a Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) Technology Investment Proposal (TIP) award. This greatly facilitated our integration on the ER-2, which itself had undergone an upgrade in recent years and now requires all payloads to be networked-enabled.

PRESENTATION AT EARLY ADOPTERS FOR THE SOIL MOISTURE ACTIVE-PASSIVE (SMAP) APPLICATIONS WORKSHOP (email to: brad.zavodsky@nasa.gov / 256-961-7914 or clay.b.blankenship@nasa.gov / 256-961-7510): The Short-Term Prediction Research and Transition Center (SPoRT) modeling group has been recognized as a SMAP satellite. Mr. Bradley Zavodsky (ZP11) and Dr. Clay Blankenship (USRA) attended the Third SMAP Applications Workshop in Boulder, Colorado on April 8-10 and gave a presentation focusing on applications of the real-time, regional-scale soil moisture information from the SPoRT Land Information System for drought, flood, and severe weather forecasting as well as an update on data assimilation of satellite soil moisture estimates into a land surface model. Observations are currently being assimilated from the European Space Agency's Soil Moisture/Ocean Salinity (SMOS) satellite in preparation for the launch of SMAP in November. The meeting was attended by Program and Project Managers from NASA HQ, SMAP Science Team Members, and other scientists working in applications areas related to SMAP.