
COFFEE, TEA OR TELIDON

Detailed meteorological information, presented in vivid, easily understood Telidon-NAPLPS colour graphics, is being used by Canadian pilots as an instant visual aid to tell them what type of weather they can expect on their routes.

Already, the system is adding to flight safety and economy. Not only does it allow pilots to alter course around bad weather, the system helps them choose and plot the most fuel-efficient route.

Developed by World Weatherwatch, a division a division of Meteorological Environmental Planning Ltd. (MEP) of Toronto, the program allows pilots to access up-to-date information when they want at home, hotel or airport on Telidon-NAPLPS terminals attached to TV sets or on personal computers.

The system was initially implemented for private pilots in the Province of Ontario under a trial program sponsored by the Canadian Ministry of Transport in co-operation with the province's Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Plans are already underway to extend the system to the rest of Canada, the United States and other countries within the near future.

The company's computers are programmed to receive and organize world weather data on a continual basis.

This data includes information from both geostationary and orbiting weather satellites. MEP's staff of meteorologists analyse and interpret the information and present it in visual form.

The graphic information appears as a two-dimensional picture in the form of a vertical cross-section extending to cruising altitude, portraying the location and types of clouds, frontal surfaces, thunderstorms, freezing levels, turbulent conditions, icing conditions, wind speed and direction, and various aviation weather reports and forecasts.

It also provides a complete visual read-out of all high-level (jet stream) conditions, and vertical windshear for commercial flights. Thus commercial carriers will be able to save time and fuel by taking advantage of jet stream conditions.

A module is being developed to allow dispatchers to chart the optimum course for maximum time and fuel savings.

In addition, the system can help pilots identify hazardous runway conditions and provide visual runway layouts in colour with active runways identified by a flashing mode. Pilots can also file and cancel flight plans.

MEP, which is already generating more than 11,000 individual pages of graphics and text a month, will soon be adding to this total.

Plans are underway to include a training package for pilots on meteorological information, a navigational training package and a classified section for sales of aircraft and parts.

For further information, contact:

Mory S. Hirt, President
Meteorological and Environment Planning Ltd.
7050 Woodbine Ave., Suite 100
Markham, Ontario
Canada L3R 4G8
Telephone: (416) 477-0870