## WORLD WEATHERWATCH

A world weatherwatch forecasting system has been developed using NAPLPS videotex technology.

World Weatherwatch, a division of Meteorlogical Environmental Planning Ltd. (MEP) and American Weatherwatch Inc., provides highly accurate weather forecasts for practically any location in the world. More than 10,000 pages of information, presented in easily-understood colour graphics, are being produced and issued each month.



MEP meteorologists analyse a continuous flow of weather data to produce highly accurate forecasts for a large number of different users.

MEP provides agricultural weather information to the Grassroots project in Manitoba, Canada, and the Viewcom program in California, as well as supplying videotex weather information on an operational basis to several database systems.

The company also provides long-term forecasts for temperature and precipitation on its videotex database which contains recent climatological data and present conditions for several agricultural regions in the U.S., Canada, and Asia.

The company says NAPLPS technology provides an excellent medium for the dissemination of weather information due to the ability to maintain up-to-date databases, the high-resolution graphics, and the possibility of providing derived parameters such as potential evaporation and irrigation requirements for specific sites.

MEP has also developed distinctive weather graphics for use in television broadcasts.

The detailed graphic capabilities of Telidon make it useful for the presentation of specialized meteorological data such as aviation routing data. Pilots can be shown the weather to be encountered en route in the form of a vertical cross-section extending to cruising altitude, portraying the location of frontal surfaces, freezing levels, hazards, and winds aloft. Sections can be updated as new information becomes available, or as the route is altered.

For marine operations, MEP can provide predicted wave heights for regions ranging from small lakes to oceans. Such areas can be mapped out, along with wind information to the same detail. The service can be made available through a satellite communications link such as Inmarsat and can be further used to determine the optimal routing for a vessel.

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