

COMPANY OVERVIEW

The MEP Company (Meteorological and Environmental Planning) has been an innovative leader in meteorology and environmental research since its inception 14 years ago. In this period, the company has developed and implemented a variety of programs in areas such as:

- Weather services
- Air pollution assessment
- Forecast services
- Modelling of atmospheric processes
- Oil spill trajectory prediction
- Iceberg tracking

With a staff of 30 scientists, engineers, forecasters and technicians, MEP produces specialized and customized weather information packages. An in-house computer facility with full hardware and system support is provided by MEP's Data Systems Division with its staff of systems analysts, programmers and operators.

EXPERIENCE

MEP's wide range of expertise in many areas of environmental studies has resulted in its implementing a variety of NAPLPS projects. MEP has pioneered the implementation of systems which produce weather graphics in a NAPLPS-compatible format. The raw data which serve as the input for the final product are derived in large part from the meteorological database stored at MEP which is fed continuously from global meteorological data networks. Computer systems have been written at MEP to

analyse these data automatically and then format them into NAPLPS-oriented display pages. As well, programs have been developed which allow technicians under computer guidance to create weather graphics interactively and efficiently for maps whose production cannot be fully automated.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Some of the NAPLPS-related systems developed by MEP include:

- Generation of NAPLPS weather graphics for the Teleguide system in Ontario.
- Creation of weather images for use in the Grassroots system in Manitoba.
- Creation of formatted weather information for daily presentation on the newscast by City TV in Toronto.
- Development of an agriculture-oriented weather database in NAPLPS format for the Viewcom program in California.
- Display of sea state and weather information using NAPLPS for automated weather briefing and forecasts in support of offshore marine activities and the prediction of the trajectories of oil spills off the east coast of Canada.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS/ TARGET MARKETS

The marriage of NAPLPS technology and other MEP systems to create and display computerized graphic images efficiently is a trend which we will pursue. Several of these NAPLPS systems in development are:

- The Aviation Briefing System will allow pilots to conduct their own self-briefing session by displaying at their terminal the weather data for the area relevant to the route they will be taking.
- For marine operations, the predicted wave height for regions ranging from a small lake to the ocean can be mapped out, along with wind information to the same detail. This system can be used to determine optimal routing for a vessel.
- A system for the agricultural community will allow users to interact with the computer to determine their irrigation requirements, develop spraying programs based on forecast weather patterns, etc.
- The two-way communications capability of videotex will offer the interested user access to a continuously updated climatological database. The user will be able to choose the type of information and method of analysis and presentation, and retrieve the processed statistics via text or graphic pages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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