

03 March 2009

All Workstation Vendors/Manufacturers,

1. Two new functions need to be implemented on the International Satellite Communications System (ISCS) World Area Forecast System (WAFS) workstations in the very near future [NOTE: dates that are presented are for planning purposes and may change]:

a. Ability to download WAFS data products from the World Area Forecast System-International Satellite Communications System File Service (WIFS) over the Internet using Hypertext Transfer Protocol over Secure Socket Layer (HTTPS). File Transfer Protocol (FTP) will not be used. WIFS will be available on or about January 2010.

b. Ability to interface with the ISCS-G3 local satellite equipment employing the interface described in the ISCS-G3 interface control document. This interface will need to be implemented in the workstations for limited test and evaluation on or about February 2010, and for full scale operational deployment to end users on or about November 2010. [NOTE: this interface is very different from the existing ISCS interface and will require the Harris PD Receive software to be replaced with native workstation ingestor(s) to receive traffic through the workstation NIC card at designated logical port addresses] The ISCS-G3 interface control document located at the following URL:

<http://www.weather.gov/iscs/INTERFACE%20CONTROL%20DOCUMENT%20v4.doc>

2. The NWS is in the final planning stages for these capabilities. Your participation is much needed to determine:

a. the impact to your customers' workstation configurations and operations;

b. the costs, if any, your customers can expect to pay for any required modifications to the hardware, software, or firmware of their existing ISCS Workstations; and

c. the manner in which the workstation vendor will communicate, coordinate and support the deployment of the workstation updates or upgrades to achieve minimum disruption of services in transitioning from the current ISCS to ISCS-G3.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING to assist the planning activities:

3. For end-users that download WAFS data (either from the SADIS FTP Server or the NWSTG FTP Server), approximate how many or what percent:

_____ Use a Graphical User Interface (GUI) to manually invoke the download

- _____ Use scripts to manually invoke the download
- _____ Use automated scheduled events (e.g., Cron Jobs) employing scripts or GUI
- _____ Use FTP file downloads as a primary means of obtaining WAFS products

4. If your present workstation software is HTTPS capable, and the file downloading scripts or functions need to be revised to invoke HTTPS on the WIFS, will this be done as a no cost maintenance upgrade for end-users having a current maintenance agreement/contract with your company for the workstation? If not how will it be offered, and at what price (rough order of magnitude (ROM) price is acceptable)? How about for those users without an existing maintenance agreement, how will it be offered, and at what price (rough order of magnitude (ROM) price is acceptable)?

5. What specific workstation software release(s) are or will be operationally compatible with the use of HTTPS for downloading file from WIFS? For end-users with your workstations that do not currently have a maintenance agreement/contract with your company, how will the software upgrade be offered and at what rough order of magnitude (ROM) costs?

6. What software release will be required for compatibility with the ISCS-G3 interface? For end-users with your workstations that have a maintenance agreement/contract with your company, how will the software upgrade be offered and at what rough order of magnitude (ROM) costs, if any? For end-users with your workstations that do not currently have a maintenance agreement/contract with your company, how will the software upgrade be offered and at what rough order of magnitude (ROM) costs?

The following table may assist in organizing some of the requested information:

	HTTPS File Transfer Capability	ISCS-G3 Interface
1. Hardware configuration		
a. Minimum acceptable configuration(s) & date of release		
b. Customers upgrade cost (with maintenance agreement)		
c. Customer upgrade cost (without maintenance agreement)		
2. Software Release Version		
a. Minimum acceptable configuration(s) – date of		

release		
b. Customers upgrade cost (with maintenance agreement)		
c. Customer upgrade cost (without maintenance agreement)		

7. When ISCS-G3 is deployed, the current ISCS software (with PD Receive) will need to be replaced or modified to accommodate the revised ISCS-G3 interface. What does your company view as its role and responsibility for participating and supporting onsite workstation modifications (e.g., loading new workstation software) as ISCS-G3 is installed at end-user sites? [NOTE - A scenario is the ISCS and workstation will be taken off line, new equipment will be installed possibly reusing and reorienting the existing antenna at the end-user sites, the workstation modifications will be implemented; the system (workstation and ISCS-G3) will be powered on and tested. If the ISCS-G3 test is successful, it will be accepted. Workstations will need to be tested and troubleshooting performed in parallel with the ISCS-G3 tests.

Some things to consider: Will the local user need to install and test the new workstation software themselves? How long will the installation take; can it be done remotely from the workstation manufacturers' locations? Who does the end-user contact if they run into problems? What is the fall back position if after many hours the workstation is not operational?

Please provide your response (to Patrick.gillis@noaa.gov) no later than 11 March 2009 for inclusion in the WIFS planning strategy. Your participation in the ISCS program is greatly appreciated.