

ASOS Test Review Board (ATRB) Meeting Minutes

Minutes: ATRB Meeting

Date: August 7, 2008

Attendees: Jerald Dinges, Joseph Fiore, and Khien Nguyen (NWS/OPS24)
Gregory Dalyai, Thomas "Mickey" Renegar (NWS/OPS11)
Tom Townsend (NWS CR4)
Bing Huang, Jerry Kranz (FAA)
Ron Heatherdale, Gerald "Wayne" Knight (U.S. Navy, SPAWARSYSCEN)
Scott Landolt (NCAR)
Robert Born (USAF)

The second ASOS Test Review Board (ATRB) Meeting was held on August 7 at 10 AM EDT using GOTOMEETING web-based meeting software to display various documents and presentations discussed during the meeting. The audio part of the meeting was held by telephone conference. Representatives from each the five groups that make up the ATRB were in attendance: The Department of Commerce (DOC) National Weather Service (NWS), the Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Department of Defense (DoD) Air Force and Navy, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Representatives from NWS/OPS11 were also in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an Operational Test & Evaluation (OT&E) Readiness Review for the ASOS Operator Interface Device (OID)/Visual Display Unit (VDU) Replacement Using Thin Client. The meeting's objectives included: Review and ratification of the minutes and status of the associated action items from the previous ATRB meeting; discuss and present results of the System Test (ST) for the ASOS OID/VDU Replacement Using Thin Client; as well as review and discuss plans for the upcoming OT&E for ASOS OID/VDU Replacement Using Thin Client. The Office of Operational Systems (OOS), Field Systems Support Center, Test and Evaluation Branch (OPS24) convened and moderated the meeting. The OPS24 ST and OT&E Directors presented results from the Thin Client ST and plans for Thin Client OT&E, respectively, using Microsoft PowerPoint presentations with GOTMEETING. Highlights of the meeting were:

1. The first topic discussed was a review of the minutes and action items from the first ATRB meeting. All action items from the first ATRB meeting were closed, and the minutes were ratified. In addition, the ATRB decided future ATRB meetings would be held on Thursdays at 10 AM EDT until further notice.
2. The second topic discussed was a PowerPoint presentation by OPS24 summarizing the results from the ST for the ASOS OID/VDU Replacement Using Thin Client using GOTOMEETING. During the presentation Tom Townsend asked if the thin client replacement project was in alignment with the planned ASOS sustainment activities. Greg Dalyai responded: Yes, the proposed ASOS sustainment software development group (Ray Bahavar) at the FAA AOS Engineering Logistics Support Center, Oklahoma

City, OK knows about the thin client replacement, and has tested the thin clients at their facility. Greg Dalyai also mentioned an NWS procurement official asked him why there was only one vendor chosen for the thin client LCD monitor. Greg told the NWS procurement official the vendor was chosen because it met all FAA requirements for the monitor. Greg also stated the monitor would be readily available from the vendor for a long period of time. Greg stated the NWS procurement official was satisfied with his explanation. During the presentation Jerry Dinges requested Greg Dalyai provide a background and overview of the purpose of thin client replacement to the members of the ATRB. The results of the ST, including all tests, and Test Trouble Reports (TTR's) written during ST, were presented by Khien Nguyen and discussed by the ATRB. After the presentation, the images (with captions) of the differences between the old OID'/VDU's monitors and OID keyboards that will be part of the FAA training package for OT&E were presented to the ATRB using GOTOMEETING. **All 5 ATRB members approved the ST results contingent on a formal ST report.**

3. The third topic discussed was a PowerPoint presentation by Joe Fiore which outlined the plans for the upcoming OT&E for the ASOS OID/VDU Replacement Using Thin Client using GOTOMEETING. Several suggestions for changes and improvements to the OT&E (and OT&E Test Plan) were discussed during the presentation. Tom Townsend corrected two communication interface parameter listing errors for Weather Forecasts (WFO) Romeoville, IL (i.e., O'Hare International Airport) and Indianapolis, IN that were presented in the table of OT&E VDU Sites. The table in the briefing was corrected. The VDU site table in the OT&E plan was already correct. **Action Item 1:** OPS24 will update OT&E plan to add ATRB changes. A list of the ATRB changes to the OT&E plan follows:

- Add a statement that the FAA Union must provide notification of approval of the FAA training material, and the FAA Union must provide notification that it is ok to start OT&E. **Section 1.5.1(d) (prerequisites) and Section 4.1 (pre-installation).**
- Add a statement that spare thin client hardware will be provided to the WFO governing the OT&E sites, so spares could be swapped out at OT&E sites if any thin client hardware component failed during OT&E. **(Section 1.5.1(e) (prerequisites), Section 1.4 last paragraph, and 4.4 last paragraph)**
- Remove the request for the ET's to inventory the thin client hardware during OT&E. **(Section 4.4)**
- Add a statement that when the ET's receive the thin clients, they should install them out of the box using existing cabling interfaces. If the existing cabling interfaces do not work, the ET's will be instructed to use the cabling provided with the thin client hardware to complete the installation. **(Section 4.4 first paragraph)**
- Add a statement to the risk reduction section **(Section 1.5.3)** of the OT&E plan that states that spares (2 thin clients, a keyboard, and one monitor)

will be provided to the WFO's governing the OT&E sites for use by the ET's if any one of the components fails during OT&E. The old OID/VDU's will also remain on site during OT&E

- Add a statement to post OT&E activities (**section 4.8**) to state that: If OT&E is successful, ETs will dispose of the existing Wyse OID's and VDU's locally. Will also take out the requirement to have the ET's ship the old OID's/VDU's back to NLSC. (**section 4.8**)
- Remove the statement that the ET's make sure that multiple OID's are on different SIO cards.(**section 1.5.1**)
- Add a statement to the section for monitoring OID keyboard lockup to state: If the OID keyboard locks up, replace the keyboard with the spare keyboard and reboot the thin client. ET's and users will continue to closely monitor performance with new keyboard.(**section 4.5**)
- Change NWS contact list to reflect personnel changes (**Appendix C and D**)
- Added a question to the ET questionnaire (**Appendix E**) asking whether the use of existing cables to install new thin client hardware was successful at the OT&E sites.

4. The fourth topic discussed was a vote by the ATRB to move to OT&E. **All five members of the ATRB voted to move to OT&E.**
5. The final topic was a wrap up of the meeting was the review and comments on the OT&E Plan. Jerry Dinges will ensure the above stated comments from the ATRB will be included in a revised plan and distributed to the ATRB on Friday, August 8. Jerry Dinges will also e-mail the revised plan, at the same time, to the NWS regional headquarters focal points. Jerry will request comments on the Thin Client OT&E Test Plan be received by OPS24 by Friday, August 15 from members of the ATRB (NOTE: Although not discussed, the NWS Employees Organization will review the OT&E Plan including designating, if they so choose, an OT&E Test Review Group member by August 15). Comments will be due by August 22 from the NWS regional headquarters focal points. **Action Item 2:** Comments on OT&E Test Plan are due on August 15 from ATRB, and are due on August 22 from NWS regional headquarters focal points. The final discussion was to set a tentative date for the start of OT&E in early September if all prerequisites for OT&E are complete.

The next ATRB meeting will be scheduled by the ATRB chairman, and disseminated to the ATRB members.

The following action items were agreed upon during the meeting:

Action Item 1: (**CLOSED**) – Assigned to OPS24 (Joe Fiore): Update OT&E plan to add ATRB changes.

Action Item 2: (CLOSED) – Assigned to ATRB, NWS regional headquarters focal points, and NWS Employees Organization: Comments on OT&E Test Plan are due on August 15 from ATRB and NWSEO (including OT&E Test Review Group member); and, are due on August 22 from NWS Regional Headquarters Focal Point.

Please direct all questions/concerns to Joseph Fiore (Phone (301)-713-0326 x 119, email joseph.fiore@noaa.gov).