

AWIPS II Topic of the Week -- A Letter From The AWIPS PM

All,

On November 12, 2009 the Office of Science and Technology (OST) announced AWIPS Program Management changes based on staffing needs within the Programs and Plans Division (PPD). As a result, John Vogel was re-assigned as the ASOS Program Manager due to his substantive ASOS experience. To ensure there is no impact to the AWIPS Program, OST assigned Timothy Hopkins to be the AWIPS Program Manager. Tim brings to the program his 10-year, extensive working experience with AWIPS, as well as, shrewd analytical and management skills. As stated previously, even though the players have changed our mission remains the same – to ensure successful AWIPS SOA migration/integration and continue to be the NWS Flagship system!

The following is "A Letter From The AWIPS PM" from Tim Hopkins regarding recent AWIPS II activities:

"On December 9, 2009, Raytheon delivered the latest build of the AWIPS II software at the Task Order 11 (TO11) Slice Snap-Up Delivery Briefing. This build was supposed to include ALL of the major functionality of AWIPS I (with some agreed upon exceptions). Hard questions were asked about specific known areas that had been incomplete in previous deliveries. Raytheon answered the questions and acknowledged all of the functionality was not there.

As you know, the government has very significant testing responsibilities for the AWIPS II software, in addition to what Raytheon is doing. This is a shared testing strategy that was a cost saving measure for TO11. We had agreed that we would complete all of our testing by January 21st, 2010 and to have submitted all of our "Fix Before System OT&E" (FBSO) software discrepancies by that time. However, this was predicated on the Snap Up delivery providing all of the functionality, so that we could complete end-to-end testing in all major areas and feel comfortable that we could identify all of the FBSO's by January 21.

Since the functionality is not all there, we can no longer hold to that January 21st cutoff date. Raytheon has committed to having all of the remaining functionality delivered by January 8th, so we

have moved our testing deadline to February 3rd, to align with the beginning of stability testing. We are not, at this time, slipping the March 15th final delivery date, as it is still possible to make that date. This is not being disingenuous or obfuscating. We have to give Raytheon a chance to meet their contractual obligations and we have to give ourselves the same chance to meet our Annual Operating Plan and budget milestones. We all report to higher authorities and we all are trying our best to keep our promises. It has to be a team effort between Raytheon and NWS, as well as between NWSHQ and the field. All other plans for testing etc. continue on as before, except that our testing and final FBSO submission date is now February 3, 2010.

Everyone should understand that Task Order 11 is NOT schedule driven. It has specific exit criteria that are event driven. All of the FBSO's must be fixed before TO11 can end. The government is the classifier and submitter for the FBSO's and only the government can formally close an FBSO. We are on an executable path to delivering the AWIPS II software to the field. Raytheon has a very excellent technical team in Omaha that is fully capable of finishing the job to our satisfaction. I will not minimize the challenges and problems, but I believe we will succeed and I will keep you informed of progress.

I want to end by thanking all of you for your efforts at the Forecaster Initial Testing (FIT) and with the Standardized Configuration for AWIPS II Testing (SCAT). Local application migration is a big challenge for the government that we are just sinking our teeth into. I am not yet comfortable that we can execute this challenge which is a government responsibility. However I am confident that similar to my confidence in Raytheon's technical capabilities, we can and will get it done. Thank you for your attention."

--Tim Hopkins

To join the mailing list for these messages, please contact Fran Curnow at Frances.Curnow@noaa.gov.

Regards,
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