

Greetings,

The first ever ISST Forum was held on 6 October 2003. The purpose of the call was to offer those in the development, training, and policy organizations within the NWS (and NOAA), as well as the Regions and field offices, an opportunity to receive an update on ISST activities and to offer suggestions, provide feedback, and to raise new IFPS science issues.

Present on the 6 October call along with members of the ISST were: WFOs (SOOs with some forecasters in attendance) from each Region, and Regional Headquarters representatives from Western, Southern, Central, and Eastern Regions. Also in attendance on this call was NOAA/FSL, representatives from MDL, OS&T, and OCWWS.

Brad Colman, ISST Lead, led off the call with a summary of the purpose of the forum, ISST activities since its inception after the WR SOO/DOH Workshop in May, and an update on recent ISST efforts. Following that, Brad briefed the conference attendees on downscaling proposals which the ISST has collected and organized prior to delivering to Jack Hayes. Discussion focused on the proposed Extended Eta proposal, whereby the 12-km Eta is cold-started off the 60-hr GFS, integrated through 168 hr, then downscaled to 5-km prior to dissemination to field offices for viewing in AWIPS and use in the GFE. This would provide field offices high resolution model guidance to populate grids through day 7. Ken Johnson (ER SSD) requested that the ISST provide a brief write-up of this proposal to send to the field and regions. Attached is this write-up. Issues that still remain include deciding if or what SmartInit will be used at EMC, which fields to disseminate, and the logistics of getting these data to the field (the proposal is to use Regional WANs).

The call concluded with a discussion on the 10-506 Directive on Digital Data Products/Services Specification. Discussion mainly centered on the review process and the direction that process should take in the coming weeks.

The ISST has discussed ways in which the process and design of the forum can be improved. Lessons learned on this first go-around include providing people on the call with better background materials to review prior to the call, building better structure in the call, having different ISST members facilitate call topics, and improving on the process of who/how to invite call participants.

Although it has been decided to hold S&T Committee meetings every two months instead of quarterly, the ISST has agreed to keep ISST Forums quarterly. With that, the next ISST Forum will take place soon after the December S&T Committee meeting.

The ISST intends to integrate the lessons learned from the first call into the next. Namely:

- 1) The ISST will solicit discussion topics from the field, NWSHQ, and appropriate NOAA labs prior to the call;
- 2) The ISST will distribute briefing materials and appropriate information prior to the call such as a summary of ISST activities since the last ISST Forum, the ISST Forum agenda (to incorporate better structure), and materials to support forum discussion topics. As far as structure, it's quite possible that part of the call will be structured, with the remaining reserved for more free-form, open discussion;
- 3) A different ISST member will facilitate each topic on the call;
- 4) Regions will be responsible for soliciting participants from the field to join the call, although the details of how many participants will be on the call, and how they will be invited (throw it open to first-come-first-serve?) is yet to be determined.

Thanks to all who participated on this first call. We look forward to the next forum and continuing our efforts!

The ISST –  
Brad Colman (Team Leader)  
Peter Manousos (Backup Team Leader)  
Dan Baumgardt  
Mark Jackson  
Larry Lee  
Andy Patrick  
Eric Stevens  
Bill Ward  
Ken Waters  
Kevin Schrab (facilitator)