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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
106 PM EST Fri Dec 2 2011

To: Users of the International Satellite Communications System (ISCS)  
and Other NWS Users

From: Craig Hodan  
Chief, NWS Dissemination Systems Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments until December 31, 2011, on ISCS Broadcast  
Ending and Being replaced by proposed GTS Internet File Service (GIFS) and  
Geonetcast Americas Satellite Broadcast

NWS is accepting comments until December 31, 2011, on plans to replace the  
ISCS satellite broadcast service, which provides meteorological and  
aviation weather products to World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
regional association IV (RA-IV) members and participating states, with the  
global telecommunication system (GTS) internet file service (GIFS).

ISCS will end June 30, 2012, when the Federal Aviation Administration  
(FAA) ISCS contract expires. GIFS will make the ISCS broadcast products  
available for download via https: over the public internet as a data pull  
service. GIFS will allow the current set of ISCS users to access products  
through the NWS issuance of authorized usernames and passwords. The new  
system will be available for preliminary use and assessment by April 1,  
2012. All ISCS users will need to transition from ISCS to GIFS by June  
30, 2012.

A sub-channel on the National Environmental Satellite, Data and  
Information Service (NESDIS) GeoNetCast-Americas (GNC-A) satellite  
broadcast service is proposed for product dissemination in fiscal year  
2013 (FY13) to provide a point-to-multipoint data push of meteorological  
products to the current set of ISCS users.

This service will complement the GIFS capability while employing a  
diverse, independent service. This complimentary service will provide  
service to the more remote or underdeveloped regions and improve service  
availability to locations where both GIFS and GNC-A are accessible. Users  
must purchase, install, operate, and maintain the required satellite  
ground receiver equipment.

Please submit comments to the following contact. When commenting by  
email, please include "ISCS-CMT:" at the beginning of email subject line.

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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