

NOUS41 KWBC 021805  
PNSWSH

Public Information Notice  
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 WFO regional  
association IV members and participating states, with the global  
telecommunication system (GTS) internet file service (GIFS)

ISCS will end June 30, 2012, when the 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 NESDIS GeoNetCast-Americas (GNC-A) satellite  
broadcast service is proposed for product dissemination in 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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