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Description of document: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) most recent internal status report on the Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD) Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) 2021-2022 Requested date: 22-November-2021 Release date: 04-October-2022 Posted date: 09-January-2023 Source of document: Freedom of Information Request National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Public Reference Facility (SOU1000) 1315 East-West Highway (SSMC3) Room 9719 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 FOIAonline

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE 1325 East-West Highway Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

Re: FOIA Request DOC-NOAA-2022-000263

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request which was received by our office on 11/22/2021, in which you requested:

"A copy of the most recent detailed internal status report(s) for the NEXRAD SLEP program and the ASOS SLEP program. I also request a copy of the condition assessment report for NEXRAD and the condition assessment report for ASOS. NEXRAD is the Next Generation Weather Radar and ASOS is the Automated Surface Observing System. I agree to limit this request to records during the time period January 1, 2019 to the present."

We have located (1) document(s) responsive to your request. You are granted full access to those records, and a copy is enclosed. Your request is now completed.

You have the right to file an administrative appeal if you are not satisfied with our response to your FOIA request. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why you believe the FOIA response was not satisfactory. An appeal based on documents in this release must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter at the following address:

Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation, and Information U.S. Department of Commerce Room 5896 1401 Constitution Ave. NW Washington, DC 20230

An appeal may also be sent by email to <u>FOIAAppeals@doc.gov</u> or by FOIAonline at <u>https://foiaonline.gov</u>.

For your appeal to be complete, it must include the following items:

- a copy of the original request,
- our response to your request,



- a statement explaining why the withheld records should be made available, and why the denial of the records was in error.
- "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" must appear on your appeal letter. It should also be written on your envelope, email subject line, or your fax cover sheet.

FOIA appeals posted to the email box, FOIA online, or Office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely.

FOIA grants requesters the right to challenge an agency's final action in federal court. Before doing so, an adjudication of an administrative appeal is ordinarily required.

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), an office created within the National Archives and Records Administration, offers free mediation services to FOIA requesters. They may be contacted in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration Room 2510 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001 Email: ogis@nara.gov

Phone: 301-837-1996 Fax: 301-837-0348 Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

If you have questions regarding this correspondence please contact Jade Spears at jade.spears@noaa.gov or by phone at (301)-427-9600, or the NOAA FOIA Public Liaison Tony LaVoi at (843) 834-3516. Please refer to your FOIA request tracking number **DOC-NOAA-2022-000263** when contacting us.

Sincerely,

LOVE.LISA.PITT Digitally signed by LOVE.LISA.PITTMAN.1522833203 Date: 2022.10.02 13:58:41 -04'00'

Lisa P. Love Director, Management and Organization Division Office of the Chief Financial Officer/ Chief Administrative Officer





NWS Office of Observations FY 2022 Quarter 1 QPR Session February 2, 2022



Observations Portfolio – Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD) Quarterly Program Review

Project Status as of: December 31, 2021



Project Information and Highlights



Terry Clark, ROC Director

Scope:

costs.

- 1) O&M funding for 122 NWS radars including: field level maintenance, telecommunications, parts repair and reconditioning, spares replenishment, training, data archive, and HQ maintenance and logistics support.
- 2) Tri-agency funding for the ROC including: software maintenance, depot level maintenance, and sustaining engineering for IT tech refresh, software enhancements, security updates and component obsolescence.

Estimated Benefits:

NEXRAD is the NWS' primary observing system for detecting hazardous weather. Radar underpins weather forecasting and warning services, which are crucial for building a Weather-Ready Nation.

Scheduling

Milestone	Completion Quarter	Status
AOP: 96% NEXRAD Availability	FY22 Q4	On Track
AOP: Deploy RDA/RPG Software Build 21	FY22 Q4	On Track
AOP: Begin construction at Hammond, LA airport for Slidell move	FY22 Q4	On Track

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Y <u>Iss</u>	ues/Risks	G	<u>Fina</u>	nces (\$,000)	
Issue/Risk Description	Response Strategy (mitigation)	Funding Element	Planned (FY Total)	Planned (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Execution Rate (YTD)
Operational system availability may be	Facilitating weekly meetings to monitor critical spares with OBS34, National Logistic Support	FY 22 ORF				
negatively impacted by shortfalls in critical spares (pulse forming network, gear boxes,	cal Center and National Reconditioning Center, Proactively identifying emerging spare parts and	REIM ORF				
slip rings, power amplifier drawers, etc.), Consumables and Bench Stock	alternatives for obsolete components. Currently 71 items (up from 59 in Q4), ROC assisting with procurements.	Project Total				
COVID-19 Causing Small Business to Reduce Operations resulting in longer delivery times (Supply Chain) and increase	Tracking NEXRAD spare parts and consumable vendors to place orders for repairs and replacements sooner and monitor Finance/Budget.	R Management Attention R	equired Y	otential Manageme	ent Attention Need	ded G On Target

Observations Portfolio – Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) Quarterly Program Review Project Status as of: December 31, 2021



Lead.

Project Information and Highlights

Lead:

Kenneth Boutin, Program Manager

Scope:

- O&M funding for 307 NWS and 570 FAA ASOS sites which includes: region field level maintenance, telecommunications, parts repair and reconditioning, spares replenishment, sensor upgrade/replacement, maintenance technician training, data archive, and HQ maintenance and logistics support.
- 2) Tri-agency funding including: software maintenance, depot level maintenance, and sustaining engineering and testing for tech refresh and component obsolescence.

Estimated Benefits:

1) ASOS is the nation's primary system for collecting and reporting surface weather observations, primarily at airports, in support of aviation operations as well as weather forecasting and the timely issuance of warnings.

۲ <u>Issues/Risks</u>				
Issue/Risk Description	Response Strategy (mitigation)			
Issue: No dedicated funding to transition ASOS communications circuits from GSA Networx contract to EIS by the May 2024 deadline	 OBS will move forward with a slowed transition of circuits based on limited resources. 			
Risk: If NWS does not have timely receipt of FAA reimbursable funding, then delays returning FAA ASOS sites back to service will occur	 Operating labor and overhead deficit @ Regions (defaults to Agency funds) FAA requires audit like accounting to pay IPAC invoices; requires OMB consultation 			

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Scheduling

Milestone	Completion Quarter	Status
AOP: 96% or higher avail for ASOS	FY22 Q4	On Track
AOP: Continue transition of circuits to EIS vendor	FY22 Q4	On Track

Finances (\$,000)

Funding Element	Planned (FY Total)	Planned (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Execution Rate (YTD)
FY 22 ORF				
REIM ORF				
Project Total				



Observations Portfolio – ASOS Service Life Extension (SLEP) Quarterly Program Review Project Status as of: December 31, 2021



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Project Information and Highlights

Lead:

Kenneth Boutin, Program Manager

Scope:

Components of ASOS SLEP include:

- ACU/DCP Hardware and Software redesign; automated AOMC functionality
- Updated ASOS Telecommunications

Estimated Benefits:

1) ASOS is nation's primary system for collecting and reporting surface weather observations, primarily at airports, in support of aviation operations as well as weather forecasting and the timely issuance of warnings.

Issues/Risks

2) ASOS SLEP will extend service life to 2040

<u> </u>	
Issue/Risk Description	Response Strategy (mitigation)
Supply Chain Risk - Delays in receiving Integrated Circuit Chips, plastics and component for Vendor design	 Vendor actively pursuing alternative sources and adapting products to use different integrated circuits ASOS PMO letter to Vendors identifying supporting a National Program
Aligning deployment of new hardware with Internet provisioning at each site	 Continue to work EIS process bottlenecks; Projected lead times in excess of 6 months to date for Non-ASOS provisioning.
Sensor obsolescence	 10 year, \$135M BPA Contract Vehicle initiated for Met Sensors Temperature, RH Sensor replacement preliminary designs complete; Integration testing underway FY23 - 27 initiative spend plan to fund Sensor Sustainment Projects submitted for out year funding to cover all operational sensors FAA funding needed for Wind Sensor deployment

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Scheduling

Milestone			Completion Quarter		Status
NOAA AOP: Enter Operational	Test and Evalua	ation	FY22 Q4		On Track
AOP: Achieve Low Rate Initial Production for Integrated ASOS SLEP Units			FY22 Q4		On Track
Y Finances (\$,000)					
Funding Element	Planned (FY Total)	Planned (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	E	xecution Rate (YTD)
FY 20 PAC Carryover					
FY 21 PAC Carryover					
FY 22 PAC					
Reimbursable (FAA/Navy)					
Project Total					



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Observations Portfolio – NEXRAD SLEP Quarterly Program Review

Project Status as of: December 31, 2021



Project Information and Highlights



Terry Clark, ROC Director

Scope: WSR-88D SLEP investment addresses the need to refresh and refurbish critical systems not addressed through routine sustaining engineering. The SLEP consists of:

- Digital Signal Processor Suite Technology Refresh
- Transmitter Refurbishment •
 - Backplane Modernization 0
 - Pulse Modulator Upgrade 0
 - Transmitter Chassis Refurbishment
- Pedestal Refurbishment •
- Equipment Shelter Refurbishment
- Engine/Generator/Auto Transfer Switch/Fuel Tank Replacement •
- Increasing Critical Spares Stock ٠

Estimated Benefits: Extends the life of the WSR-88D beyond 2030; sustains systems availability

above 96%; and manages system life-cycle cost

IA: Completed Shanghai Transmitter SLEP in support of IA.

	Issues/R	<u>isks</u>

Issue/Risk Description	Response Strategy (mitigation)
Pedestal growth work may impact schedule cost	Growth work CLIN in contract and contract ceiling increased to accommodate growth
Generator Manufacturer Supply Chain Shortage	Working with EAD CO to ensure an accurate delivery date from manufacturer



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Scheduling

Milestone	Completion Quarter	Status
NOAA AOP: Perform 24 Pedestal Refurbishments	FY22 Q4	On Track 5 of 24 (92 of 167)
AOP: Perform 42 Generator Refurbishments	FY22 Q4	Delayed (On Hold)

Finances (\$,000)

Funding Element	Planned (FY Total)	Planned (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Execution Rate (YTD)
FY 20 PAC Carryover				
FY 21 PAC Carryover				
FY 22 PAC				
Reim PAC				
Project Total				



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