



UPS First in the Pool for a SWIM

Updated: 1:48 pm ET October 16, 2008

October 16 - UPS is the first airline to receive digital weather information from the FAA under NextGen's transformational System Wide Information Management program – bringing the goal of giving all users a common picture of the national airspace system a step closer.

On Oct. 6, UPS started receiving SWIM-compliant data via the Integrated Terminal Weather System Prototype Service. SWIM, a cornerstone of the Next Generation Air Transportation System, provides common and secure information across a digital network to all NAS users.

SWIM provides the technology and IT standards to NAS programs so that weather and other air traffic information can be more easily shared with other parts of the aviation community, including the airlines, the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense. This data sharing improves common situational awareness among all NAS users.

In a major milestone for SWIM, UPS now gets SWIM-compliant digital data for four ITWS weather products: the Microburst TRACON Map; the Gust Front TRACON Map; Terminal Weather Text; and Configured Alerts.

UPS “can now get data more easily,” said SWIM Implementation Team Lead Jeffery Hobbs, who noted that one of SWIM’s goals is to make data more accessible.

“SWIM gives us common situational awareness,” added Hobbs. “We want a dispatcher to see the same weather information as the controller.”

UPS receives the SWIM-enabled weather products by connecting to the FAA Telecommunications Infrastructure external gateway at the William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City, N.J.

Hobbs stressed that the data is securely delivered – another benefit of SWIM through the use of the FTI external gateway.

An advantage of SWIM over current information dissemination is that it is digital. Graphical information is passed on to users instead of just voice or static paper information.

Currently, the data the FAA provides cannot be directly integrated with a user’s own system. However, the digitally formatted data provided by SWIM can be integrated with a user’s displays and maps. SWIM prescribes to industry standards to format and transmit data, allowing NAS information to be readily shared, creating a common picture of the system for all users, Hobbs explained.

While UPS is the first airline to receive this data, the FAA plans to add additional users in the coming year.

More SWIM program information is available at www.swim.gov.



This page can be viewed online at:

<https://employees.faa.gov/org/linebusiness/ato/news/headquarters/story/?newsId=57219>