Sharing Your Non-Federal AWOS Data With The FAA & Aviation Community

In Accordance With The Latest Version Of The Non-Federal AWOS Advisory Circular, AC 150/5220-16

FAQ

What Is WMSCR? It stands for the "Weather Message Switching Center Replacement" system. The FAA uses it to disseminate current aviation-meteorological data products, including METARs, which are received from various sources. They include Federal AWOS, AWSS, and ASOS[1] – as well as certain non-Federal AWOS. (Specifically AWOS III or better.)

Why Should I Disseminate My Non-Federal AWOS Data Via WMSCR? While dissemination is not required, it is beneficial. For instance, pilots planning a flight will have access to FAA-certified weather information from your airport. Also, disseminating your AWOS data will help enhance the accuracy of local weather forecasts.

Is My Non-Federal AWOS Eligible To Disseminate Data Via WMSCR? Eligibility requires that the non-Federal AWOS be an "AWOS III" or better, and have been commissioned by the FAA. You must also have formally agreed to allow the FAA to annually inspect the AWOS. These requirements are in accordance with the latest version of the non-Federal AWOS advisory circular, AC 150/5220-16.

I Have An FAA-Commissioned AWOS III (Or Better). How Do I Disseminate My Data Via WMSCR? You need to contract with an FAA-approved third-party service provider. Non-Fed AWOS are not connected directly to WMSCR. Instead, the FAA requires that an FAA-approved third-party service provider collect the METARs from individual AWOS. The service provider then passes the collected METARs on to WMSCR. In short, the service provider connects to WMSCR; individual non-Federal AWOS do not.

How Do I Contract With An FAA-Approved Third-Party Service Provider? Contact one of the providers listed on the second page of this FAQ.

What Does It Cost To Disseminate Weather Data Via WMSCR? Your FAA-approved third-party service provider will specify the costs. They will vary, depending on the service provider you select. For instance, some providers may offer subscription-based service, and require an initial set-up fee. In contrast, other providers may offer flat-rate service, and require no initial set-up fee. Finally, additional variables that may affect your cost include which company manufactured your AWOS, and the communications equipment available at your location.

Is Additional Equipment Required To Disseminate Data Via WMSCR? It depends on the service provider's equipment requirements. If additional equipment is required, the provider will sell it to you.

Who Pays For Dissemination Fees And Additional Equipment? The owner of the non-Federal AWOS pays for any fees and/or additional equipment that is required.

I Want To Purchase An AWOS III (Or Better). What's The First Step? To avoid costly mistakes, contact your FAA Non-Federal Program Liaison, at Non-Federal-Program@faa.gov .

Please contact Non-Federal-Program@faa.gov to:
Submit feedback, questions, or just confirm that you have the latest version of this FAQ.

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[1] AWOS: *Automated Weather Observing System*. AWSS: *Automated Weather Sensor System*. ASOS: *Automated Surface Observing System*.

FAA-Approved Third-Party Service Providers

Providers' approval status and contact information is subject to change.
Please contact Non-Federal-Program@faa.gov to ensure you have the latest version of this list.

Commercial Entities:

1. **All Weather Inc. (AWI)**
   POC: Barbara Baca
   Phone: (916) 928-6752
   Email: bbaca@allweatherinc.com
   Website: http://www.allweatherinc.com/wp-content/uploads/AWI-NADIN1.pdf

2. **anyAWOS**
   POC: Dr. Marilyn Wulfekuhler & Dr. Bill McUmber
   Phone: (517) 268-1286
   Email: support@anyawos.com
   Website: http://www.anyawos.com/metar/WeatherNexus

3. **Remote Systems Integration (RSI)**
   POC: Tom Nichols
   Phone: (800) 261-1774 (Option 1: "RSI Net, AWOS Data-Delivery Sales & Information.")
   Email: tnichols@remotesys.com
   Website: www.remotesys.com/rsinet/

Non-Commercial Entities:

4. **National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO)**

   NASAO POC: Kim Stevens
   Phone: (703) 610-0223
   Email: kstevens@nasao.org
   Website: http://nasao.org

   - **IWAPI**
     POC: Bridget Ostronic & Taylor Groeneweg
     Phone: (303) 526-5995, (Extension 1: "IWAPI.")
     Email: support@iwapi.com
     Website: http://iwapi.com/air.html

5. **University Research Foundation (URF)**
   POC: John McKinley
   Phone: (301) 345-8664
   Email: jmckinley@urf.com
   Website: http://www.urf.com/awos.php