



# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

## Thank You for Attending!

The Partner Engagement Event was a success thanks to you - thank you for attending! We had approximately 90 attendees representing over 40 partners across the weather enterprise. Looking ahead, the NWS is continuing a [transformation journey](#) refocusing our goals of People, Infrastructure, and Future, and look forward to your support and engagement in this transition. Throughout the event, we focused on partnerships and discussed our [Priorities and Action Strategies for the Future](#).

American Meteorological Society

## NWS Partner Engagement Event

Sunday, January 28th

Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor

Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD



## In Case You Missed It!

A Quick Summary

1:00 pm - Conversation with Ken

1:25 pm - Panelist Discussion

1:55 pm - Q&A

# In Case You Missed It, Here's What We Covered

## Transformation Ahead, Let's Work Together

We're focusing on our core mission, and you're an important part of it. There are many opportunities to partner with the NWS to help facilitate this transformation. We are excited to be partnering with Lilt, a Generative AI language translation platform, to make [NWS products and services more accessible to non-English speakers](#). AI and Machine Learning are becoming a reality. The meteorologists of the future are going to have more scientific data at their fingertips than ever, and so will you. These applications and technology will make our products better and more efficient for sustainable growth into the future.

There are other big changes in the works as well. Teams are examining our Operations Model and Staffing Requirements as well as our IT Architecture. We are partnering with the public sector (18F - from GSA) on Weather.gov 2.0. Changes such as AWIPS moving to the Cloud will allow us to do our job from anywhere at any time, which builds resilience, efficiency, and flexibility. Not only does this allow us to better serve our core partners, but the next generation wants more flexibility in the workplace. This will be especially important as a significant amount of our workforce becomes retirement-eligible, and we need to adapt to attract and, more importantly, retain the next generation to maintain a robust NWS.



NWS Chat 2.0 powered by Slack happened in record time because of a partnership; Partner with us to make more great changes! A healthy NWS is a healthy weather enterprise. We can grow this thing together!

# Panelist Discussion

We invited representatives from a few recent partnerships with industry to share their experiences as partners with the NWS and our role to further opportunities for partner engagement and new partnership growth. We engaged in a valuable discussion about their initiation of that relationship, and the challenges they've faced since. Highlights from the discussion are below.



## Thank You to Our Panelists!

- Ken Graham, Moderator and **NWS Director**
- George Jungbluth, NWS Office of Dissemination (**DISS**)
- Jim Calkins, NWS Office of Central Processing (**CP**)
- Wayne Mackenzie, Special Advisor to the **NOAA** Chief Scientist on Innovation and Partnerships
- Phil Stiefel, **Lilt**
- Colin Murphy, **18F**

## What does it look like to start a partnership with NWS?

- It started with a Request for Information (RFI) and went from there. We faced challenges but worked through it together (**Lilt**)
- There are alternatives to partnering together and other vehicles on how to partner - it's not just procurements and contracts. Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (**CRADAs**), the Small Business Innovation Research (**SBIR**) program, offer alternative opportunities to partner with us. (**NOAA**)
- Unique partnerships can be established using an Interagency agreement (**18F**)
- Supplemental funds (IIJA) can help flip the business model, building sustainable markets for long-term success (**NOAA**)
- A partnership isn't just a handoff, it's a collaborative decision and relationship (**18F**)

## What are some of the challenges working with the Government?

- Some people distrust technology **(Litt)**
- Trying to roll out technology during a busy time of the year or outside of the budget cycle. **(Litt)**
- Customer discovery, like understanding a user's needs and engagements, is important. Need to work on this continuously throughout the lifecycle **(NOAA)**
- Having pressure-filled challenges that are tied to an important mission **(18F)**

## What's the NWS process now as to how to solve the problem?

- Many challenges are threaded together. In the case of NWSChat 2.0, a fast deployment was needed to reach the need and we couldn't scale, build, or meet the mission without the expertise of the private sector. **(DIS)**
- NWS doesn't always have all the resources to solve a problem, that's why it is important to have partnerships with those who do to point us in the right direction. **(CP)**



## Looking Ahead

When we do our job, we're helping to protect lives and property and enhance the economy. By partnering with us, you're a part of this mission. The Weather Enterprise is crucial to the delivery of NWS products and services. Technological realities are changing, bringing challenges but also many new opportunities. With our partners, we can take them on thoughtfully and proactively, together. Let's Go!