
CHARTER

Between the

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

and the

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

and the

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

for

THE DEVELOPMENTAL TESTBED CENTER (DTC)

27 January 2017

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1 PURPOSE

This document (hereafter the "Charter") describes the responsibilities for the operation of the Developmental Testbed Center (DTC). The Signatories to this document are hereafter referred to as the "Participants".

A Terms of Operation (hereafter referred to as the TOO) accompanies this Charter, and defines how the DTC operates. The TOO is a consensus policy describing how the DTC functions and outlines the planning and execution processes to ensure smooth operation of the DTC in a coordinated manner.

The fundamental purpose of the DTC is to serve as a coordinating mechanism acting as bridge between research and operations, accelerating the transition of research efforts into operational guidance and products, reducing duplication of efforts, and leveraging resources. Each Participant bears the expense of its own participation in the DTC.

2 AUTHORITY

The authority for the United States Air Force entering into this agreement is the Economy Act and Title 10 United State Code Section 2358.

3 BACKGROUND

The DTC is a joint effort of the Department of Commerce (DOC)/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) /National Weather Service (NWS), DOC/NOAA/Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), the Department of Defense (DOD) / United States Air Force (USAF), and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), which is a National Science Foundation (NSF) federally-funded research and development center (FFRDC). Future Participants may be included in the DTC, pending their concurrence with the Charter and contingent upon approval by the DTC Executive Committee (EC). All DTC participants indicated in this Charter are expected to provide a good-faith effort to participate in the DTC, while fulfilling their own unique missions.

The DTC was initiated in 2003 as a distributed facility with participating centers (or, nodes) in Boulder, CO at NCAR and at the Global Systems Division (GSD) of the Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) at NOAA/OAR. It is a means for the NWP community to test and evaluate new models, technologies, and techniques for use in research and operations and serves as a bridge between research and operations to facilitate the activities of both halves of the NWP community in pursuit of their own objectives:

- The research community gets a "functionality similar" operational environment that allows testing and evaluation of new NWP methods in retrospective extended period tests using advanced tools

- The operational community benefits from DTC testing and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of new NWP advances prior to consideration for operational implementation

The DTC's efforts may include both regional and global aspects of numerical weather prediction.

4 DTC MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Charter supersedes all previous DTC agreements and understandings between the Participants, written or implied.

The DTC management and operation are governed by a hierarchical structure of boards and committees whose members represent the interests of the Participants and the broader NWS community, as described in the accompanying TOO.

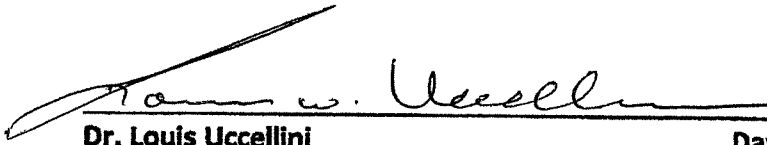
5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

The responsibilities of the Participants are detailed in the DTC TOO.


6 PERIOD OF AGREEMENT AND MODIFICATION/TERMINATION

The Charter will remain in effect for five years from the date of final signature. The Charter may be amended by unanimous written agreement of all Participants and will be reviewed at least once every five years to determine if modifications are required. Any Participant may withdraw from the Charter by providing written notice not less than six months in advance of such termination to the other Participants.


7 SIGNATORIES

 3/13/17

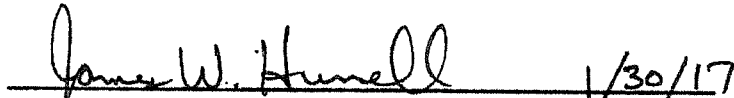
Dr. Louis Uccellini Date
Director, National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

 4/11/2017

Mr. Craig McLean Date
Director, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

 JAN 30 2017

Mr. Ralph O. Stoffler Date
Director of Weather
United States Air Force

 1/30/17

Dr. James W. Hurrell Date
Director, National Center for Atmospheric Research