

# The Innovative Techniques Working Group

A small working group has been formed to provide a forum where ideas for new/improved data acquisition and processing techniques can be shared and vetted. The Innovative Techniques Working Group (ITWG) was formed because often times a new look at an old problem can result in a creative solution to improve operation and performance (e.g., AVSET, Mode Selection Function, etc.). Even though the membership is intentionally limited, the ITWG has the support of the WSR-88D stakeholder agencies to recruit temporary expert members to address specific problems/topics.

To identify operational problem areas, the ITWG will review comments included on WSR-88D questionnaire responses, Hotline call tickets, and inquiries/suggestions received via the WSR-88D feedback system. Initial topics for discussion include reducing Volume Coverage Pattern (VCP) update times, more frequent low-level updates, optimizing pulse repetition frequency (PRF) selection, reviewing VCP specifications, and other issues that may improve data availability and/or quality.

The ITWG will focus on operational problems with the goal of finding creative methodologies and implementing field-deployable solutions. (See the SAILS article in this publication for a look at the first ITWG project.) Members will leverage existing agency processes (e.g., TAC, SREC, OSIP, etc.) to reduce the time required to move from the drawing board to deployment.

Once an idea is fleshed out and deemed viable by the ITWG, a formal project will be initiated using the standard WSR-88D change process. Project information and updates will

be posted on the Radar Operations Center web page under the “New Radar Technology” banner (<http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/NewRadarTechnology/NewTechDefault.aspx>). In addition, articles outlining ongoing and planned proposals will be published in future editions of *NEXRAD Now*.

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