

**Sandy Supplemental Grant Recipient Quarterly Progress Report**

**Himawari-8 BUFR Development for Winds Processing and Radiances –  
Cloud Mask, Cloud Phase, Cloud Height**

**Award Number: NA14NES4830006**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service  
Center for SaTellite Applications and Research (STAR)

For the Period  
1 October 2014 – 31 December 2014

On behalf of  
The Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS)  
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# **Himawari-8 BUFR Development for Winds Processing and Radiances – Cloud Mask, Cloud Phase, Cloud Height**

## **I. Introduction**

### **Cooperative Institute Description**

The Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS) is a collaborative relationship between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison). This partnership has and continues to provide outstanding benefits to the atmospheric science community and to the nation through improved use of remote sensing measurements for weather forecasting, climate analysis and monitoring environmental conditions. Under the auspices of CIMSS, scientists from NOAA/NESDIS and the UW-Madison Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC) have a formal basis for ongoing collaborative research efforts. CIMSS scientists work closely with the NOAA/NESDIS Advanced Satellite Product Branch (ASPB) stationed at the UW-Madison campus. This collaboration includes a scientist from the National Climate Data Center (NCDC), who joined the NOAA NESDIS employees stationed at CIMSS.

CIMSS conducts a broad array of research and education activities, many of which are projects funded through this Cooperative Agreement with NOAA. This Cooperative Agreement identifies four CIMSS themes:

1. Satellite Meteorology Research and Applications, to support weather analysis and forecasting through participation in NESDIS product assurance and risk reduction programs and the associated transitioning of research progress into NOAA operations,
2. Satellite Sensors and Techniques, to conduct instrument trade studies and sensor performance analysis supporting NOAA's future satellite needs as well as assisting in the long term calibration and validation of remote sensing data and derived products,
3. Environmental Models and Data Assimilation, to work with the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA) on improving satellite data assimilation techniques in operational weather forecast models, and
4. Outreach and Education, to engage the workforce of the future in understanding and using environmental satellite observations for the benefit of an informed society.

### **CI Management and Organizational Structure**

CIMSS resides as an integral part of the Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC). CIMSS is led by its Director, Dr. Steven Ackerman, who is also a faculty member within the UW-Madison Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. Executive Director Wayne Feltz provides day-to-day oversight of the CIMSS staff, science programs, and facilities. The education and outreach activities at CIMSS are coordinated by Senior Outreach Specialist Margaret Mooney. The individual science projects are led by University Principal Investigators (PIs) in conjunction with a strong and diverse support staff who provide additional expertise to the research programs. CIMSS is advised by a Board of Directors and a Science Advisory Council.

The CIMSS administrative home is within the Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC), a research and development center within the UW–Madison’s Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research. The independent CIMSS 5-year review panel for administration wrote that they were “...impressed by the people, systems and processes in place.” The SSEC mission focuses on geophysical research and technology to enhance understanding of the Earth, other planets in the Solar System, and the cosmos. To conduct its science mission on the UW-Madison campus, SSEC has developed a strong administrative and programmatic infrastructure. This infrastructure serves all SSEC/CIMSS staff.

The CIMSS mission includes three goals:

- Foster collaborative research among NOAA, NASA, and the University in those aspects of atmospheric and earth system science that exploit the use of satellite technology;
- Serve as a center at which scientists and engineers working on problems of mutual interest can focus on satellite-related research in atmospheric and earth system science;
- Stimulate the training of scientists and engineers in the disciplines involved in atmospheric and earth sciences.

### **Executive Summary of CI Banner Research Activities**

CIMSS is a collaboration between NOAA and UW–Madison that has increased the effectiveness of research and the quality of education in the environmental sciences. In a *Space Policy* article in 1986, William Bishop, former acting Director of NESDIS, noted, “Remote sensing from space can only thrive as a series of partnerships.” He used CIMSS as a positive working example of the government-academia partnership, noting “The Institute pioneered the computation of wind speeds at cloud heights by tracking cloud features from image to image. These are now a stable product provided from the satellites to the global models at the National Meteorological Center.” CIMSS continues to be a leader in the measurement of winds from satellite observations and leads the way in many other research endeavors as outlined above. There is great value to NOAA and UW-Madison in this long-term collaboration known as CIMSS.

## **II. Funded Project**

**Award Number: NA14NES4830006**

**Project Title: Himawari-8 BUFR Development for Winds Processing and Radiances – Cloud Mask, Cloud Phase, Cloud Height**

**PI: Dr. Steve Ackerman**

**NOAA Sponsor: Walter Wolf**

**NOAA Sponsoring Organization: NOAA NESDIS/STAR**

**Reporting Period: 1 October 2014 – 31 December 2014**

## **Description of Task I Activities**

Primarily activity involves quarter reporting.

## **NOAA Strategic Goal(s)**

### **NOAA Mission Goals**

1. Climate Adaptation and Mitigation: An informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts
2. Weather-Ready Nation: Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events

### **NOAA Strategic Plan-Mission Goals**

1. Serve society's needs for weather and water
2. Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond
3. Provide critical support for the NOAA mission

## **Research Progress**

This project involves the implementation of the GOES-R AWG Cloud Algorithms, developed by CIMSS and NESDIS/ASPB, to the data from the new geostationary Japanese Meteorological Agency (JMA) satellite, Himawari-8, which will contain an ABI-like instrument, the Advanced Himawari Imager (AHI). Himawari-8 was launched in late 2014 and is slated to become operational in late 2015. Specifically, this project covers the implementation of the ABI cloud mask (ACM) and the ABI Cloud Height Algorithm (ACHA) for AHI. In all, this project covers the generation on AHI of the following cloud products: clear-sky mask, cloud type/phase, cloud top height, temperature and pressure. The motivation for this project is to provide accurate cloud location and height information for both the Atmospheric Motion Vectors (AMV) algorithm as well as for use at the Aviation Weather Center. Because AHI is very similar to ABI, especially for the cloud mask and height algorithms, it will also serve as a demonstration for ABI, which will be launched after AHI is operational.

## **Algorithm Development Progress**

An initial set of interfaces has been developed and is currently being integrated. It is important to note that only a single simulated data set is available for testing. Due to a delay in getting data from JMA for technical reasons, it is expected that National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service's (NESDIS) Center for Satellite Applications and Research (STAR) will be getting actual AHI data at the end of January 2015. Work has focused primarily on integrating in the latest GOES-R Cloud algorithms (Cloud Mask, Type/Phase and Height) into the STAR Algorithm Processing Framework (SAPF). Once the data is available, work on developing the sensor specific lookup tables (LUTs) and thresholds will begin.