



USPLN Newsletter

Fall 2007

As you are aware, WSI Corporation, the leading weather information provider to business and government, has partnered with TOA Systems to become a co-owner of the U.S. Precision Lightning Network (USPLN). The two companies have been working together since early this year to provide real-time lightning data and services to the US government, media, aviation, energy and consumer markets, and, of course, the USPLN resellers. There are a number of compelling technical and business reasons WSI believes the USPLN to be a superior lightning network:

- ✦ The USPLN offers the broadest continental US data coverage for customers and resellers, with data available across country borders and no artificial cutoffs. USPLN provides coverage into southern Canada, the Gulf of Mexico, portions of the Caribbean and northern Mexico, resulting in the most extensive and comprehensive data sets available today.
- ✦ By taking advantage of TOA's proprietary lightning detection technology and WSI's extensive processing and distribution facility, the USPLN is able to deliver critical lightning data usually 2 to 3 times faster than the competition (depending upon the delivery option selected).
- ✦ The USPLN provides the most comprehensive real-time data, including cloud-to-ground flashes as well as the individual cloud-to-ground strokes that comprise a flash. Since a single stroke can be several miles away from a recorded flash, the USPLN delivers the detailed and uncompromised accuracy our customers require.
- ✦ The advantages of relying on the USPLN data are demonstrated by its impressive and consistent technical metrics, including location accuracies less than 200 meters, detection efficiencies greater than 95% and delivery uptimes greater than 99.99%.

Moving forward, we are focused on a number of short-term improvements and strategic enhancements to ensure the USPLN remains the premier lightning service:

Change for the Better: WSI may not be able to improve the weather, but we can improve the reliability, content, format, and delivery of the weather information we provide. As an example, we are supplementing the existing LDM product with a new data format. The new format, which will be available by mid-November in the 1-minute file, includes critical details many of you have requested:

- Time to the nearest millisecond
- Error ellipse axes lengths and major axis orientation

Evolution and Expansion: WSI is in the business of global weather, and lightning knows no borders. We have a number of important initiatives underway for 2008, including building a complete North American lightning network with full coverage in Canada, Alaska, Mexico, and the Caribbean, as well as global expansion. Data and services from the North American Precision Lightning Network™ will have, of course, the quality, reliability, and flexible pricing you have come to expect from the USPLN. On a global level, as soon as we have sufficient coverage for key locations or regions, we will announce and provide availability and pricing for the data.

On behalf of the USPLN, we look forward to the opportunity to work with each of you as we head into an exciting 2008!

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