

MnDOT wants feedback on new weather terminal system



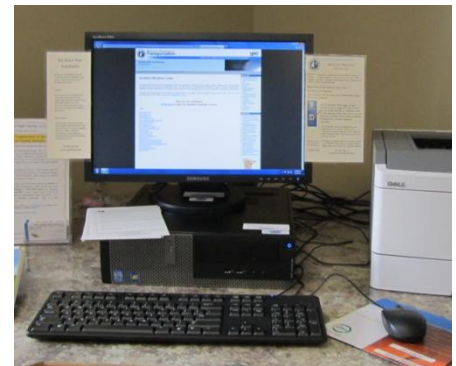
**MnWAS Weather Briefing
Station - 1984**

Minnesota airports have been on the cutting edge of weather briefing technology since the 1980s, with considerable changes over the years. MnWAS (Minnesota Weather Access System) began in the 1980s as a phone modem system which provided users with aviation weather information. Since then, the system has evolved to a computer-based system with access to text and graphic aviation weather resources.

Today many new pilots have never known weather briefings without the internet. MnDOT Aeronautics has received feedback in recent years from users desiring access to the same websites they use at home such as DUAT, DUATS, and other public and private flight planning and weather briefing services.

MnDOT is implementing a new type of weather computer at airports throughout Minnesota. The current annual contract costs \$1700 per computer, and with these new computers, we anticipate a 50% or greater cost savings over three years, to be spent in other ways which benefit aviation across Minnesota.

Many free flight planning websites have user guides available on their websites. Please take some time if you do not already use these websites to set up an account, try them out, and use the online guides if necessary. Websites such as DUAT and DUATS are free FAA-sponsored websites which have been available to pilots for several years and have the capability to provide weather briefings, plan flights, and even file flight plans. There are other commercial flight planning websites, some of them free, which provide similar resources. The weather pages on the MnDOT Weather page include some of these links, as well as links to websites which provide aviation and non-aviation weather without requiring a login. Please let us know if there are websites you would like to access which the computer restricts, as well as if there are ways the terminal could be made more user-friendly. Our goal with these new computers is to provide users with access to the same tools they have available at home in a system that is cost-effective and useful.



Test MnWAS Terminal at KSGS

If you're on Facebook or Twitter, don't forget to follow us for updates!



MnDOT Aeronautics



@mndotaero

www.mndot.gov/aero