



NOAA SATELLITES AND INFORMATION SERVICE

CLIMATE DATABASE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (CDMP)

The National Requirement: The Nation requires a process of making essential historical environmental data available on the internet.

NOAA's Response: NOAA Satellites and Information Service's Climate Database Modernization Program (CDMP) seeks to increase the use of historical climate records by improving access, via the Internet, to the wealth of information contained in NOAA's national data archives. CDMP was initiated in FY2000 in response to Congressional concerns regarding access to, and utilization of, the Nation's historical climate data. Archived environmental data records rescued by CDMP have the potential to provide great value to the Nation by helping to better understand and mitigate the serious economic and life threatening effects of hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding, and other severe weather phenomena through improved planning. Use of this rich data source, collected at great expense over centuries, is severely restricted because it was recorded on media such as logbooks, manuals, microfilm, and charts that are decaying. CDMP makes this national treasure of climatic data and information more accessible to industry and researchers to enable environmentally sensitive economic and political decisions.

From CDMP's inception, NOAA Satellites and Information Service has coordinated the climate database modernization work and has made great progress digitizing historical records and placing them on the Internet that were previously available only on microfilm or paper. CDMP has also modernized the handling of new incoming climate data through timely digitizing and rapid loading to Internet-based on-line systems. To date, accomplishments include placing over 40 million historical climate records dating back to the founding of America. Key coastal variables ranging from shorelines, to tidal histories are being digitized and made available for users. Publications that date back to the earliest days of organized observational networks are imaged and available on-line. Critical environmental observations are being keyed so that the historical climate record from the mid-1800's is available for detailed study.

Partners and Customers: CDMP supports a wide variety of users in the United States and around the world. Having historical climate data on-line supports any decision-maker - whether the man-in-the-street, the scientist, or CEO - by providing accurate, timely details of the past. CDMP partners with contractors in Kentucky, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland for support and services to modernize NOAA's climate databases. CDMP supports a variety of NOAA Offices' projects as well as Department of Defense-funded efforts.

Financing: The FY 2005 Budget request of **\$6.2 million** will continue data modernization activities.

For additional information: www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/cdmp/cdmp.html
and www.nesdis.noaa.gov

