
CHARTER

Between the

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

and the

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

and the

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

for

THE DEVELOPMENTAL TESTBED CENTER (DTC)

25 July 2022

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1 PURPOSE

This document (hereafter referred to as the “Charter”) describes the responsibilities for the operation of the Developmental Testbed Center (DTC). The Signatories to this document are hereafter referred to as the “Participants”.

A Terms of Operation (hereafter referred to as the TOO) accompanies this Charter and defines how the DTC operates. The TOO is a consensus policy describing how the DTC functions and outlines the planning and execution processes to ensure smooth operation of the DTC in a coordinated manner.

The fundamental purpose of the DTC is to serve as a coordinating mechanism, acting as a bridge between research and operations to accelerate transition of research efforts into operational guidance and products while reducing duplication and leveraging resources among the participating agencies, laboratories, and programs. In this way, efficiencies are gained by each participant through their individual support of the DTC.

2 AUTHORITY

This Charter is authorized pursuant to the Department of the Air Force authority under 10 U.S.C. § 4001, Research and Development Projects. This Charter is not a fund transfer agreement. Activities that require the transfer of funds will be authorized under separate agreements, including under 31 U.S.C. § 1535, the Economy Act, which authorizes agreements to obtain supplies or services between or among federal agencies, and will be subject to 31 U.S.C. Chapter 63, Using Procurement Contracts and Grant and Cooperative Agreements, which prescribes criteria for executive agencies in selecting appropriate legal instruments.

3 BACKGROUND

The DTC is a joint effort of the Department of Commerce (DOC)/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) /National Weather Service (NWS), DOC/NOAA/Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), the Department of the Air Force (DAF), and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), which is a National Science Foundation (NSF) federally-funded research and development center (FFRDC). Future participants may be included in the DTC, pending their concurrence with the Charter and contingent upon approval by the DTC Executive Committee (EC). Each DTC participant indicated in this Charter is expected to provide a good-faith effort to participate in the DTC while fulfilling their own unique mission.

The DTC was initiated in 2003 as a distributed facility with centers (referred to as nodes) in Boulder, CO at NCAR and at the NOAA/Global Systems Laboratory (GSL). The DTC provides the Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) community tools to test and evaluate new models, technologies, and techniques for use in research and operations. The DTC also serves as a bridge between research and operations to facilitate the integration of activities from both halves of the NWP community:

- The research community tests and evaluates new NWP methods in retrospective tests over an extended period using advanced tools in an environment functionally similar to operations.
- The operational community benefits from DTC testing and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of new NWP advances prior to consideration for operational implementation

The DTC's efforts may include both regional and global aspects of numerical weather prediction.

4 DTC MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Charter supersedes all previous DTC charters and understandings between the Participants, written or implied.

The DTC management and operation are governed by a hierarchical structure of boards and committees whose members represent the interests of the Participants and the broader NWP community, as described in the accompanying TOO.

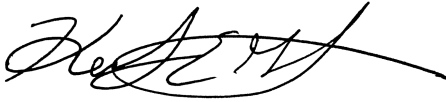
5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

The responsibilities of the Participants are detailed in the DTC TOO.

6 PERIOD OF CHARTER AND MODIFICATION/TERMINATION

The Charter will remain in effect for five years from the date of final signature. The Charter may be amended by unanimous written agreement of all Participants and will be reviewed at least once every five years to determine if modifications are required. Any Participant may withdraw from the Charter by providing written notice not less than six months in advance of such termination to the other Participants.

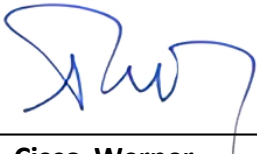
7 SIGNATORIES



Sep 16, 2022

Kenneth Graham
Director, National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Date



October 3, 2022

Dr. Cisco Werner
Acting Administrator, Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Date



26 August 2022

Brig. Gen. Charles B. McDaniel
Director of Weather
Department of the Air Force

Date



27 October 2022

Dr. Everett Joseph
Director, National Center for Atmospheric Research

Date