1/30/2013

National Hydrologic Warning Council

ALERT2 Source Address Management System
Request for Development Funding

The ALERT2 protocol is gaining momentum as the successor to the ALERT protocol, which has served many users well since its inception in the early 1970's. Early adoption of ALERT2 in Colorado, Kansas and Texas has demonstrated that full implementation will remedy many problems experienced in recent years due to system growth. One critical problem that has been well documented is the loss of valuable data that occurs during storm events due to radio traffic contention. Another is the limited addressing capacity of ALERT. ALERT2's remedy for this is its capacity for 65,000 complete sites compared to 8,000 individual sensors for ALERT.

As real-time data collection needs of current users continue to rise and as new communities choose to undertake this effective low-cost means of managing flood risk for the first time, the need for oversight and coordination of addressing assignments is becoming increasingly vital. To avoid potential conflicts among systems, ALERT2 addresses must be assigned in a sustainable way that ensures uniqueness throughout the country.

The ALERT2 Technical Working Group (TWG) was established by the National Hydrologic Warning Council (NHWC) to help develop the ALERT2 protocol and assure that stated objectives of the ALERT user community are achieved. To deal with addressing concerns, the TWG recommends establishing a simple web-based application through which system owners request addresses for specific sites. The application would then issue a unique Source Address and store it, along with its associated Agency and Site Name in its database. This automated process would require minimal administrative oversight while insuring that assigned addresses are not duplicated. No fees would be charged for registering or for using the Source Address Management System (SAMS). As directed by the NHWC, the TWG would be initially responsible for developing and managing the SAMS.

Since several agencies are already transitioning to ALERT2, establishing the SAMS soon is important to prevent addressing conflicts. The NHWC is requesting that all agencies with flood ALERT systems provide funding for the establishment of the SAMS registry. The funds received will be used by NHWC to establish the SAMS and associated services. The proposed funding levels are listed in the following table:

Number of ALERT Sites	**Cost**
10 or less	**$100**
between 10 & 50	**$250**
50 or more	**$500**

By sharing these start-up costs, participating agencies will avoid costly efforts required to resolve the problems created by inadvertent address assignment conflicts.

Make checks payable to: **National Hydrologic Warning Council SAMS**
Mailing address: **NHWC Source Address Management System Fund**
2480 West 26th Avenue, Suite 156-B
Denver, CO 80211

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the NHWC ALERT2 Technical Working Group Chair Don Van Wie at (303) 258-0170 or email don.vanwie@gmail.com