

**S09-2**

**Operational Utilization of Ocean Surface Vector Winds from RapidScat Scatterometer**

Paul S. Chang(1), Zorana Jelenak(1), Seubson Soisuvann (1), Faozi Said(2)

*(1)NOAA/NESDIS/STAR, College Park, MD,*

*(2)Global Science and Technology, Inc.*

NASA launched RapidScat to the International Space Station (ISS) on September 21, 2014 on a two-year mission to support global monitoring of ocean winds for improved weather forecasting and climate studies. The JPL-developed space-based scatterometer is conically scanning and operates at ku-band (13.4 GHz) similar to QuikSCAT. The ISS-RapidScat's measurement swath is approximately 900 kilometers and covers the majority of the ocean between 51.6 degrees north and south latitude (approximately from north of Vancouver, Canada, to the southern tip of Patagonia) in 48 hours. RapidScat data are currently being posted at a spacing of 25 kilometers, but a version to be released in the near future will improve the postings to 12.5 kilometers. RapidScat ocean surface wind vector data are being provided in near real-time to NOAA, and other operational users such as the U.S. Navy, the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI).

Scatterometers have been impacting NOAA operations since the launch of QuikSCAT satellite in 1999. These winds revolutionized marine weather forecasting and warning functions at National Weather Service. Near real time utilization of RapidSCAT data in NOAA operations will be presented and impacts on weather data products will be discussed