

Research Request:

We have used Universal Weather in Houston for International handling and weather briefing for many years. What other service providers are available in the area of handling and weather briefing, and how do they compare for reliability, cost, and available types of services?

Research Response:

Listed below are a few other companies that provide similar services as Universal Weather. While we cannot measure the reliability of these companies, they are prominent in the industry. Below are descriptions of their programs, taken directly from their websites.

ARINC**ARINC Direct**Flight Planning

With options such as quick file or advanced route planning, coded departure routing, slot requests, participation in CDM, and flight plans data-linked or saved to disk for loading into your FMS, our worldwide flight planning service will meet the needs of your flight department. Flight plans are tailored to your individual aircraft, and have advanced features not found in other flight planning tools.

Flight Following

Graphically track the location of your aircraft based on radar data and position reports using our flight following service. Also view weather overlays, ETA, ground speed, destination, and alternative flight plans.

Weather Services

Graphic and text weather available from ARINC Direct encompass animated weather (including futurecast radar), winds aloft, tops and movement, customized overlays, route weather briefs, and passenger weather.

Aircraft Messaging

Relay important operational information to your crews from the ground with our easy-to-use interface. Access weather and ATC services such as departure clearances and ATIS and send messages and routine reports over data link, right from the cockpit. ARINC Direct provides both the ground-based interface and the network used to trans-

mit the data. Our service is fully compatible with most avionics including AFIS®, TeleLink®, UniLink®, and others.

Support

As with all ARINC Direct services, 24x7 support is available from our flight operations center. The center is staffed with highly qualified, courteous flight coordinators who are eager to handle any request.

Other services include:

- Aircraft Services
- RVSM Services
- SKYLink
- Satellite Services

ARINC Customer Service — For ARINC product/service information, contract requests, invoice inquiries or general questions. Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Phone North America 800-633-6882 (select option 2)
International Sprint Access Code +1-800-633-6882 (select option 2)
Fax 1-410-266-2329

For more information: http://www.arinc.com/products/business_aviation_services/index.html

Air Routing International

International and Domestic Flight Support

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, our experienced international operations staff is prepared to meet standard travel requirements or fulfill the most challenging requests. Our worldwide network of agents and vendors is a critical component to our success. With their assistance, we will guide you, as the chief pilot or dispatcher, to each tech stop and final destination and ensure that your aircraft, crew and passengers receive the highest level of service and attention.

Overflight and Landing Permits

We routinely handle diplomatic clearances, overflight and landing permits around the world. Whether your routing is simple or complex, we ensure that each permit is obtained quickly.

Ground Handling Services

Once you land, Air Routing's support does not stop. An agent from our worldwide network greets every flight and provides a unique local insight into the country you are visiting. Our agents are ready with quick solutions to the problems that you might encounter.

ter. Like Air Routing employees, they are committed to top quality, personalized services.

- Fuel Arrangements
- Transportation
- Hotel Reservations
- Catering
- Aircraft & Boat Charters
- Book Tee-off Times
- Tickets to Sporting Events
- Crew I.D. Card Program

Other Services

- Overflight and landing permits
- Flight planning in accordance with RVSM and MNPS procedures
- CFMU hookup with Eurocontrol
- Global credit facilities
- Weather briefs and warnings
- European and U.S. ATC flow control advisories
- Flight following/tracking
- Fuel arrangements
- Ground services
- Aircraft & Boat Charters
- Hotel reservations
- Catering and limousine service
- Tickets to sporting events, book tee-off times
- Visa services
- Commercial aircraft or helicopter transfers
- Airport Reservation Office Slots
- En-Route Weather Updates
- Flight Level Winds
- Tropical Storm and Hurricane Forecasting and Tracking

Our operations team monitors each leg of your trip, quickly responding to last minute details with precision. We routinely manage a multitude of details quickly and efficiently, so that when you utilize Air Routing International, L.P., you are assured of a hassle-free flight. Once you land, Air Routing's support doesn't stop. An agent from our worldwide network greets your flight and is ready with quick solutions to any problem you might encounter. We have chosen them because they are committed to top-quality, personalized services. With Air Routing, there is never a requirement to pay a retainer or membership fee. As a complimentary service, Air Routing offers a photo ID card program that entitles each member of the flight crew to discount rates at participating hotels and car rental agencies worldwide. As an added bonus, our clients can also take advantage of FliteWatch, a program facilitated by ASI Group. ASI Group analysts monitor world affairs, giving our operations team the unique ability to pass on in-

formation, in the air or on the ground that could be critical to the crew and passenger's safety.

Flight Briefing

With more than 200 years of combined experience, our meteorologists tailor computerized flight plans that save time, fuel and money. By continuously monitoring weather conditions along your route, we help you avoid areas of severe weather, thunderstorms, significant icing and turbulence, while maximizing use of upper level winds that result in more accurate fuel loads and flight time projections. We also provide NOTAMS, FAA and EuroControl flow advisories. Our access to all FAA preferred routings ensures that ATC accepts your route and keeps last minute changes to a minimum. Air Routing's HF communications and link to the latest satellite communications give us immediate access to you while en route. Air Security International is also watching your flight. Air Routing clients automatically receive Air Security's FliteWatch program. Security analysts monitor world affairs 24 hours a day, giving us the unique ability to pass on information that could be critical to the crew and passenger's safety. Air Routing meteorologists provide an array of verbal and written weather briefs. No retainers or membership fees are required to use these weather services. While you're on a trip, our forecasters will send your weather outlooks the night before departure at your hotel. Should typhoons or conditions warrant warning bulletins, we also send this information to your hotel.

Contact Information

Customer Service: 800-987-5676

Email: ops@airrouting.com

For more information: <http://www.airrouting.com/>

Honeywell

Global Data Center Flight Support Services

Flight Sentinel

Flight SentinelSM (FS) is a powerful new concept that fills in the gaps that cause delay for general aviation aircraft, providing significant time and cost savings to subscribers. When terminal congestion or weather threatens your flight schedule, your aircraft will operate more efficiently with tailored FS solutions. FS services are designed to enhance safety and help crews avoid weather and air traffic delays through personalized strategic flight planning, and tailored communications delivered via datalink.

Flight Planning

GDC's Web Flight Planning system provides a variety of new features in addition to a modern web interface. Unlike our Legacy flight planning system, Web Flight Planning

is not Java-based which means that users may access the system from any PC via a web browser. Our new flight planning system is both more powerful and more flexible than our existing Legacy flight plan system. Behind the scenes, the new system employs the aircraft manufacturer's performance data coupled with a robust routing engine to provide accurate performance calculations and flyable routes. Flight plans may be optimized for minimum time or minimum fuel, and other new features are planned in the near future.

Weather Services

The Global Data Center (GDC) provides a wide range of aviation and plain language weather information to complement our flight planning services. Weather services include textual weather information and graphical weather products. Access to these services is available via telephone, AFISCOM Express software, datalink, and the Weather Center.

Air Traffic Services

Air traffic services greatly increase efficiency by making Air Traffic Control (ATC) related information much more accessible. For example, an aircraft destined for Teterboro Airport can receive the most recent D-ATIS report via datalink while still on the ground at Burbank Airport in order to make the critical "go/no go" decision based on the latest available information.

Air traffic services provided by the GDC include:

- Digital Automated Terminal Information Service (D-ATIS) Reports
- Terminal Weather Information for Pilots (TWIP) Reports
- Pre-Departure Clearances (PDCs)
- Datalink Oceanic Clearances - Eastbound
- Datalink Oceanic Clearances - Westbound
- North Atlantic (NAT) Track Messages
- Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs)
- Standard Airport Reservations (KJFK, KLGA, and CYYZ)
- Special Airport Reservations (airports as designated by STMP and/or NOTAM)

Messaging Services

Utilizing a variety of VHF and satellite datalink communications networks, the Global Data Center (GDC) acts as a communications hub to facilitate thousands of air-to-ground and ground-to-air messages daily. Accessed directly from the aircraft's Flight Management System (FMS), convenient datalink messaging enables flight crews to keep in touch with the ground during all phases of flight.

Datalink

Datalink, or the Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS), is a robust two-way data communications system between aircraft and ground systems. A complete datalink communication, which may be generated either manually or automatically, is referred to as a datalink message. Messages from the aircraft to the

ground are referred to as downlink messages and messages from the ground to the aircraft are referred to as uplink messages. Services available via datalink include flight plans, weather reports and forecasts, air traffic services, and two-way messaging.

Contact Information

Telephone: (888) 634-3330

Email: gfo@mygdc.com

For more information: <http://www.mygdc.com/>

WSI

InFlight- With WSI InFlight® you'll receive a continuous stream of WSI's award winning weather information to your portable or panel-mounted display via the SIRIUS Satellite Radio network with complete coverage and content for the majority of North America and the Caribbean at any altitude. WSI InFlight delivers the most accurate, up-to-date weather and related mission critical aviation information to any aircraft equipped with the WSI InFlight antenna and receiver.

PilotBrief Pro

For aviation professionals driven and measured by on-time performance and passenger comfort, WSI Pilotbrief Pro™ is a decision support system that sharpens and streamlines flight operations. WSI Pilotbrief Pro combines award-winning WSI Pilotbrief weather, airspace, and flight plan information into a single integrated display. A turn-key system, WSI Pilotbrief Pro features all the equipment necessary to integrate into WSI's high bandwidth satellite network. Empowered by WS ProLink™, users can quickly build their own route-centric briefing, saving flight routes and display preferences for re-use at any WSI Pilotbrief Pro system nation-wide. Additionally, pilots can submit flight plans directly to the FAA on the spot. WSI Pilotbrief Pro with WSI ProLink technology shortens pilots' pre-flight briefing while keeping them ahead of changing conditions along their route.

Dispatch

For airline dispatch departments focused on efficiency and reliability, WSI Pilotbrief Dispatch™ provides a robust source for airline operational information. Easily networked, WSI Pilotbrief Dispatch cost effectively delivers operational data including weather and flight tracking throughout your dispatch organization. Worldwide AVN GRIB, text weather and NOTAM data can be directly exported into your flight planning system. WSI Pilotbrief Dispatch provides the accurate information necessary to safely plan comfortable and economic flights.

Online

For pilots that need to stay connected to the weather on the road as well as at home, WSI Pilotbrief Pro Online™ offers the ultimate on-demand weather service. One of the

few online weather services that fully complies the FAA's Qualified Internet Communications Provider (QICP) program, WSI Pilotbrief Pro Online provides access to WSI's award winning briefing services from any Internet enabled web browser. Pilots can graphically combine aviation weather, airspace notifications and their actual planned route of flight into one easy to use interactive workspace. Built with WSI ProLink technology, WSI Pilotbrief Pro Online allows subscribers to file flight plans directly to the FAA and to access their preferred routes and briefing preferences at any WSI Pilotbrief Pro kiosk located in the FBO's throughout North America.

Aviation Forecasting

WSI's Aviation Forecasting Group consists of operational aviation forecasters that currently deliver forecast services to American Airlines, US Airways, Jet Blue, and several regional airlines. WSI's aviation meteorologists have met rigorous education and aviation experience requirements to part of the forecasting team. The Group's products and services are designed to meet the Principle Operations Inspector's (POI) handbook on Enhanced Weather Information Services (EWINS) and have been approved by the FAA. The end result is a team operating as a seamless part of our customers' day-to-day operational staff.

Contact Information

Phone: 800-USA-2FLY

For more information: <http://www.wsicorp.com/>

Meteorlogix

MxVision- Our MxVision® customers benefit from vivid graphic displays and real-time, location-specific weather information — including active storm tracking and alerting — all specifically customized to their industry and available at a touch of a button.

Aviation Sentry- Weather is critical to your industry. From arrivals and departures to planning safe routes to ensuring passenger and employee safety, weather impacts your operations every day. MxVision AviationSentry is the new standard in aviation weather. A top-notch pilot weather briefing system, MxVision AviationSentry also helps you run a safer, more efficient business.

MxInsight

Our MxInsight® Geospatial Systems offers advanced prediction, forecasting, modeling and analysis solutions. We are the unmatched pioneer in weather-based geospatial technology -- if you need to assess the impact of the weather on broadly dispersed, geographically-based fixed or moving assets, you won't find a better solution anywhere.

For more information: <http://www.meteorlogix.com/>