

NOAA Science On a Sphere Users Collaborative Network Workshop
NOTES
Day 2, SPHERE CASTING Session
Bishop Museum
July 30, 2008
Honolulu, HI

Note: This session featured Sandy MacDonald of the NOAA Earth System Research Lab, and inventor of SOS, doing the first ever “sphere cast” by being videocast and remotely controlling the SOS at Bishop from Boulder, CO to give a presentation

- SOS gives you the view from space—great visualization of the dynamic systems of Earth.
- SOS lets you see it from the perspective of the astronaut; people connect visible images to their gut, if they can see it, they can understand it better. Message: We have to live in harmony with the Earth, and this lets you see how humans have affected the Earth.
- “AHA!” moment: concept from SOS. Finally can see whole Earth in motion instead of small pieces, leads to deeper understanding.

Q: Is this where you thought the technology would be?

A: Wants to get it around the world. Overjoyed to have people want it in their institutions, don't see a limit on it.

Q: How much interaction with developers (UniView)?

A: Not much.

Comment: Seems like great opportunity to do more. There are still a limited number of SOS but we aren't there yet. Logical step is to meet with developers.

Q: Timeline?

A: Don't know, can't hurt to start conversations. Maybe over the next 6 months. Dataset launched, have a spherecast to unveil.

Q: 1 to 1 simulcast: 30 potential locations. What happens when we scale up?

A: More like webcast or one way communication.

Comment: Envisioning decision-makers at these spheres. We should set goal of having this happen. Subject matter experts giving presentations at all locations.

Comment: Have reps from Sen. Inouye's and Rep. Hirono's office here today.

Q: In what we just saw we were led through by a “spheremaster”. Can he highlight?

A: Yes

Q: Are new SOS users developing stuff? Do we support their infrastructure?

A: We are still working on it. Any internet connect is OK, but too low tech and we can't use spherecasting.

Comment: As a new user, spherecasting is a great way to train docents.

Comment: More \$-IT infrastructure cost may be too much. But private institutions may be able to help.

Q: % of institutions that even have internet-some of these can partner with those who can't. Open invitation.

Comment: More marketing is needed to showcase. Networks growing—this can have a high-profile launch in the media.

Q: Do you have to have a sphere to be “spheremaster”?

A: Now, yes. But you can use a desktop, but only if you have a lot of components.

Q: Do you need lead time in response to events?

A: Yes.

Q: Considering flash video?

A: Linux-based access to commercial products may be limited. But there is an open-source flash version that they are looking into.