



In the News

USTAR Space Weather Center Team Members Invited to Participate in the National Research Council Decadal Survey

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USU researcher, Center for Atmospheric and Space Sciences director and USTAR Space Weather Center founding member, Robert Schunk, and USTAR Space Weather Center director and president of Space Environment Technologies, Kent Tobiska, were recently invited to participate in the National Research Council Decadal Survey for Research to Operations.

The National Research Council Decadal Survey for Research to Operations is a broadly based assessment of the scientific priorities of the U.S. solar and space physics research enterprise for 2013-2022. The survey is being organized by the Space Studies Board of the National Research Council.

According to the National Research Council, papers, like the ones written by Schunk and Tobiska, should “promise to advance an existing or new scientific objective, contribute to fundamental understanding of the Sun-Earth system, and/or facilitate the connection between science and societal needs” and must consider the following questions:

1. How are observations, models, or data collected for research used to support operations?
2. How are operational observations, models, or data used to support research?
3. What are key science questions that need to be answered to substantially improve operational support?
4. What is the best strategy for improving the transition from research to operations and societal benefit?

As members of the multi-disciplinary working group, Schunk and Tobiska bring with them years of experience and expertise. Schunk has been responsible for turning ionosphere research models into operational systems, including the Global Assimilation of Ionospheric Measurements model used by the USTAR Space Weather team to correct position inaccuracies due to ionospheric disturbances. Likewise, Tobiska’s experience includes turning solar irradiance and atmospheric density models into operational systems such as SOLAR2000 and JB2008. The contributions of Schunk and Tobiska on this NRC panel will ensure that the experience of USTAR in commercializing ionospheric space weather becomes an integral part of United States research-to-operations policy in the coming decade.

About USTAR: The Utah Science Technology and Research initiative (USTAR) is a long-term, state-funded investment to strengthen Utah’s “knowledge economy” and generate high-paying jobs. Funded in March 2006 by the state legislature, USTAR is based on three program areas. The first area involves funding for strategic investments at the University of Utah and Utah State University to recruit world-class researchers. The second area is to build state-of-the-art interdisciplinary facilities at these institutions for the innovation teams. The third program area involves teams that work with companies and entrepreneurs across the state to promote science, innovation and commercialization activities. More information about USTAR is online (www.innovationutah.com) or follow Twitter (<http://twitter.com/Innovationutah>). USU

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news is also online (<http://economicdevelopment.usu.edu>) or follow USU USTAR (http://twitter.com/USU_USTAR) and USU Technology Commercialization office (http://twitter.com/USU_TechCom). For more information about the survey, visit on the web: <http://www.nas.edu/ssb>. For more information on the USTAR Space Weather Center at USU, visit <http://spaceweather.usu.edu/>; Space Environment Technologies information can be found at <http://www.spacewx.com/index.html>.

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