

# Tomorrow.io Space Program Briefing

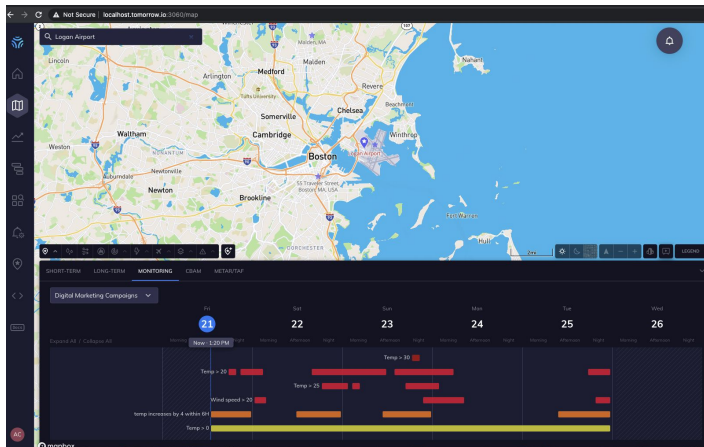
OCP Innovation Webinar

December 2021

## Tomorrow.io at a Glance

- Started in **2016** in Boston
- Locations in U.S., Israel, Singapore, Mumbai, Tokyo and Australia
- Raised over **\$200M** in funding from more than a dozen top investors
- Partnering with the U.S. Air Force, NASA, JetBlue, Uber, Ford, and more
- Approximately **185** employees (**90** in R&D)

## Scaling Weather Intelligence Globally



### Weather Intelligence Alert

De-ice planes between 10 AM - 11 AM

### Weather Intelligence Alert

Hail will start in 60 minutes. Move car to covered area and check road conditions



# What's the difference between weather forecasting and **Weather Intelligence™**?

Consider an operator receiving either of these communications...

## Weather forecast

"40% chance for rain on Tuesday across New Mexico."

## Weather Intelligence™

*"Avoid flying within Flight Zone 27 on Tuesday between 1:45 PM - 3:15 PM to avoid safety issues due to precipitation that is exceeding safety protocol."*

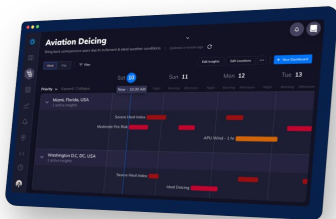


Weather Intelligence™ isn't focused on the weather, it's focused on the predictive **impact of the weather, automated decisioning, and operational optimization.**

# Tomorrow.io:

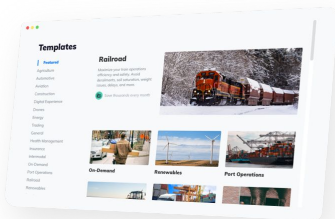
## Bridging the gap from weather data to weather intelligence

### Automating Decision Support



#### Easy-to-use SaaS

The world's first  
Weather Intelligence Platform™



#### Multi Vertical Platform

One software that works  
horizontally across all industries  
and for specific tasks

### Filling Critical Data Gaps



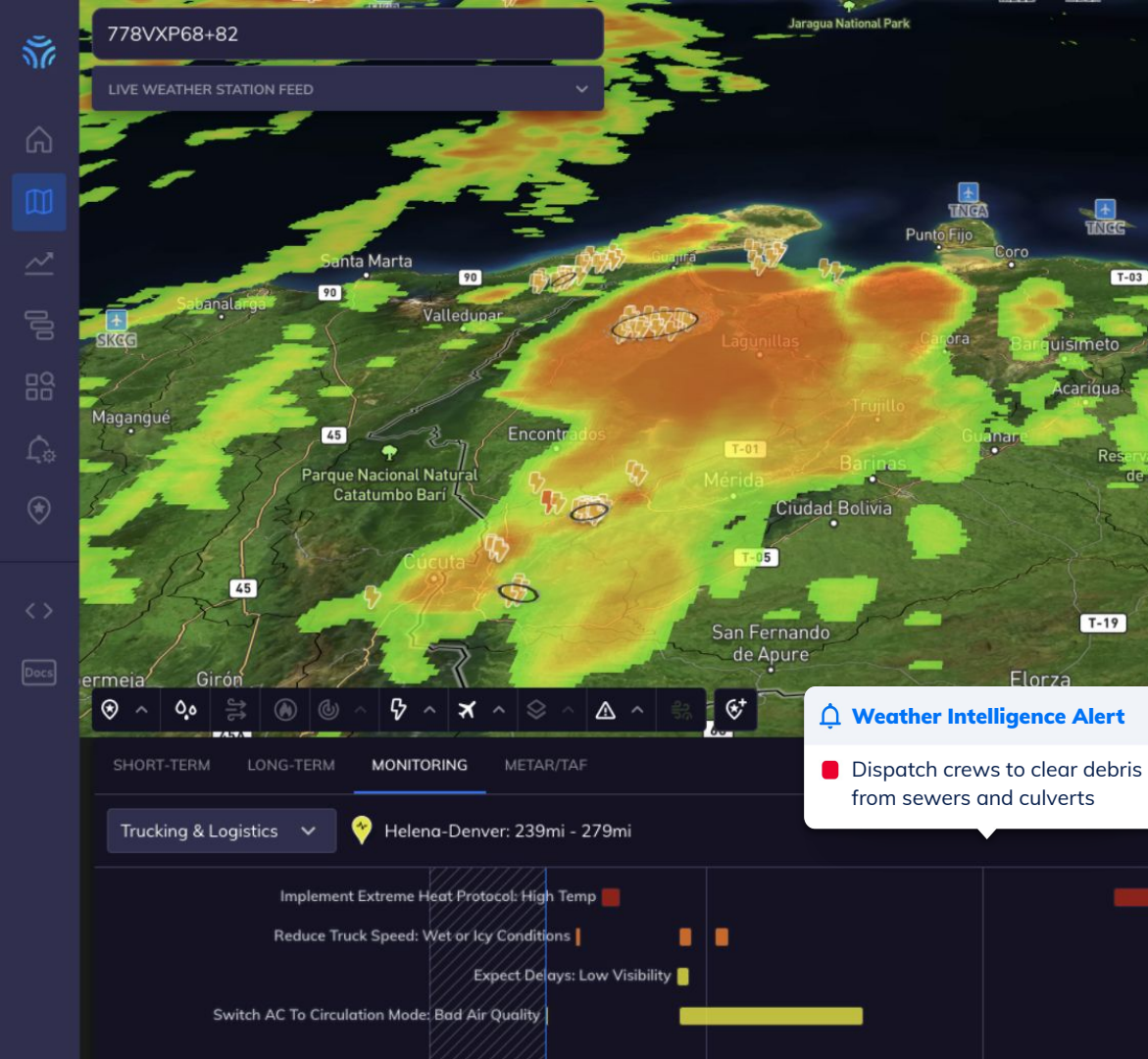
#### Deep Tech

Leveraging hyperlocal  
proprietary modeling, the cloud,  
and artificial intelligence



#### Global Coverage

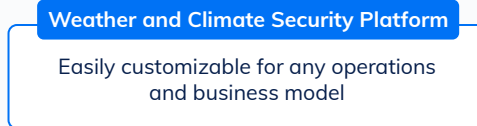
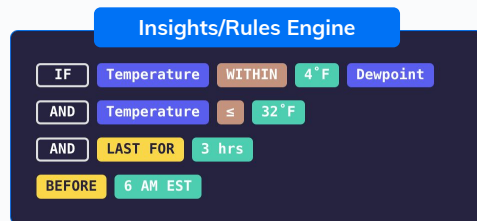
Equally distributed across land  
and ocean, available in the  
developed and developing world



## Automate customized action plans with Tomorrow.io's Weather and Climate Security Platform

- **Interactive map displays over 30+ weather and air quality parameters**, enabling users to visualize and track weather, in addition to their short-term and longer-term timelines
- **Predictive insights dashboard shows how weather will impact your operations** or business across the next 6 days so you can optimize operational plans in advance
- **Autonomously monitor many locations** at once and automatically send alerts to your team about specific locations and weather conditions

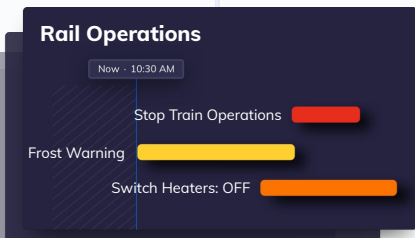
# Scaling Hyperlocal Weather Intelligence Globally



**Rail Operations**

Now - 10:30 AM

- Stop Train Operations █
- Frost Warning █
- Switch Heaters: OFF █



**Crop Spraying**

Now - 10:30 AM

- Do Not Spray: High Winds █
- Delay Spraying █
- Ideal Wind Direction █



**Port Operations**

Now - 10:30 AM

- Suspend crane operations █
- High winds █
- Beaufort 6 - Wave height 3-4m █



**Disaster Management**

Now - 10:30 AM

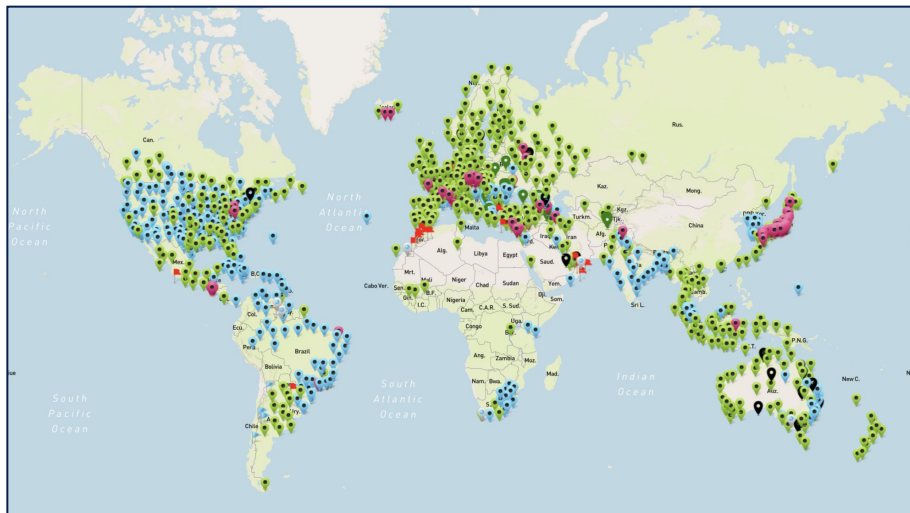
- Implement Extreme Wind Protocol █
- High Fire Risk █
- Issue Alert: High Flood Risk █



# The Weather Gap

Global distribution of ground-based sensors show inequality in weather-sensing infrastructure

**Radars**



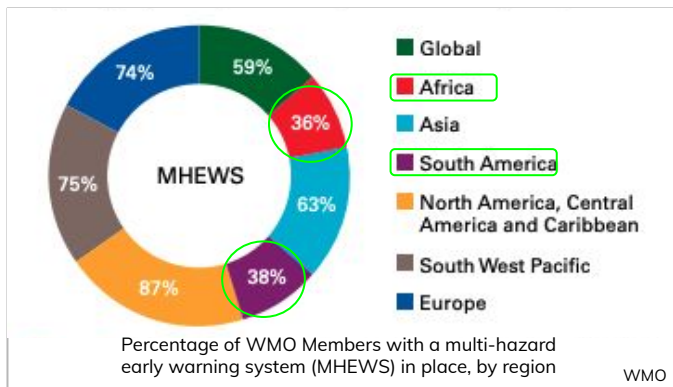
**Weather Stations**



**Most of the world lacks observation coverage and thus reliable forecasts**

# Majority of Developing World Lacks Early Warning Systems

Africa, South America, and Least Developed Countries Have Lowest Percentage of Early Warning Systems



Severe Weather Causes Many More Deaths in Developing Countries Compared to Rest of the World

Washington DC July 2019



Severe floods:  
0 casualties

Mozambique March 2019



Severe floods:  
1,000 deaths  
3 million impacted

More than 91% of deaths due to weather, water and climate hazards occurred in developing countries (WMO)



# A Breakthrough Solution: The World's First Weather Radar Constellation

- ✔ A radar satellite design that is 50X smaller and lighter than current state-of-the-art
  - ✔ Enabling the deployment of multiple satellites at a fraction of the cost of existing single satellite
  - ✔ Revisit frequency increased by 50X - from every 3 days, to approximately every hour
  - ✔ Patented and protected technology
- “ A new [active radar] instrument architecture that is compatible with low-cost satellite platforms...will enable constellation missions and **revolutionize climate science and weather forecasting.** ”

[NASA JPL](#)



# Our Constellation Will Address Numerous Applications

## Flood & Landslide Risk

Accurate early warnings of flooding and landslide risk for developed and developing world

## Hurricanes & Typhoons

Improve intensity and trajectory forecast for every hurricane, typhoon and cyclone on earth

## Wildfire & Drought Risk

Worldwide precipitation data to inform fire danger indices and drought forecasts

## Numerical Weather Prediction

Drive significant improvement in forecast skills for global and regional NWP models

## Aviation

Global en-route storm detection tracking. Weather radar and nowcast for every airport on earth.

## Agriculture

Power farming decisions for every farm on earth using the world's most accurate and comprehensive rainfall data.

## Renewables

Storm prediction for assets outside of terrestrial radar coverage; accurate and timely streamflow forecasts.

## Shipping & Supply Chain

Global en-route storm detection. Ocean wave height and surface winds mapping



# No Other Solution on the Horizon to Meet Operational Needs

Several space radar missions have flown to date, but **none have accomplished global coverage with high revisit rates** suitable for operational meteorology needs, leaving us to rely on passive sensing with significant limitations



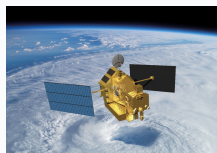
**Nothing is planned to meet these requirements through 2030**

All planned space radar missions are limited coverage and low revisit rate



## Executed Single Large Satellites - Low Revisit Rate, ~1B/unit

Precipitation Mapping Missions (wide swath)



NASA/JAXA TRMM  
1997-2015



NASA/JAXA GPM  
2014- ~2030

Science/Process Missions (narrow swath)

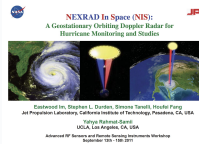


NASA CloudSat 2006-present

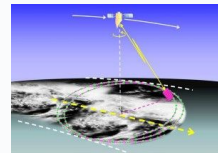


NASA JPL RainCube  
2018-2021  
Small Satellite  
<\$5M/unit

## Concepts/Planned Major technical challenges/costs



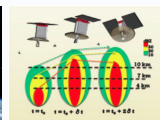
NASA JPL NIS  
Not pursued  
Expected costs over \$2B to cover only the U.S.



ESA WIVERN  
Pre-feasibility studies ongoing



ESA EarthCARE  
Launch in 2023



NASA INCUS  
Launch in 2027



NASA AOS  
First launch in 2028

Instrument	NRT?	Relevance	Satellite	Orbit	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
PR	!	3 - high	TRMM	35 °												
Rainradar		1 - primary	FY-3G	50 °					X	X	X	X	X	X		
Rainradar		1 - primary	FY-3J	50 °							X	X	X	X	X	X
RainCube		4 - fair	ISS RainCube	51.6 °	X	X										
DPR	No	1 - primary	GPM Core Observ	65 °	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
CPR (CloudSat)	!	5 - marginal	CloudSat	13:30 asc	X	X										
CPR (Earth-CARE)		5 - marginal	EarthCARE	14:00 desc					X	X	X	X				

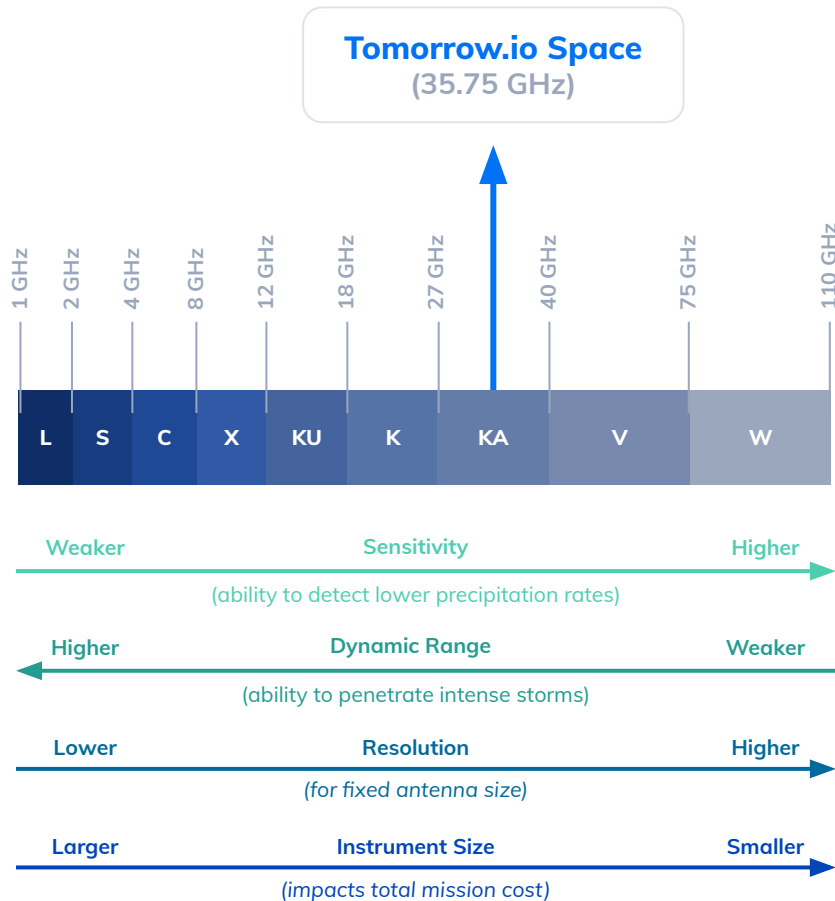
Source - World Meteorological Organization Satellite Mission Database  
Not shown: ACCP mission (2027 or later) will be low revisit rate; IMERG product is based on weaker sensors with lower spatial and temporal resolution

# Why Ka-Band?

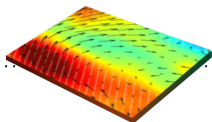
Tomorrow.io's radar sensors will operate in the Ka-band at a frequency of **35.75 GHz** (8.4 mm wavelength), the same as NASA/JAXA GPM's [KaPR](#) instrument and the radar on NASA's [RainCube satellite](#)

## Advantages of Ka-band over other frequencies:

- Sensitive to low- and high-intensity precipitation, and other high-value geophysical parameters, from orbital distances
- More sensitive to vertically integrated liquid water than Ku, yet still able to estimate a wide range of surface precipitation intensities
- **Enables smaller antenna and components, and thus lower SWAP and cost, for a desired sensitivity and resolution**

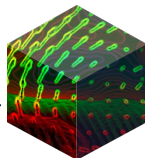


# Weather Radar From Space: A New Paradigm in Weather and Climate Prediction



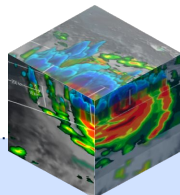
## Ocean Surface Winds

- Detect tropical cyclone formation and measure radius of tropical storm winds
- Resolve hurricane inner-core wind structure and detect hurricane winds over ocean
- Improve marine wind/wave warnings, ship routing, and wind energy forecasts



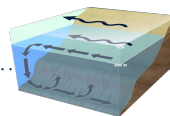
## 3D Wind Profiles (inside clouds and rain)

- One of the highest ranked observation priorities to improve weather models
- Better forecasts of daily weather, hurricane track and intensity, and extreme winds
- Improve prediction of El Niño/La Niña and transport of pollutants and trace gases



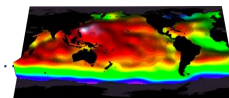
## 3D Precipitation

- Ranked the highest priority out of 152 parameters by Group on Earth Observations
- New level of understanding and prediction of hurricanes
- Improve flood, landslide, wildfire and drought monitoring and prediction
- Enable equal access to radar and reliable weather forecasts worldwide



## Ocean Surface Currents

- Inform planning for military anti-submarine and amphibious operations
- Reduce ship fuel consumption and enable safe and efficient marine navigation
- Improve search and rescue, hazmat cleanup, and marine ecosystem management



## Sea Surface and Wave Height

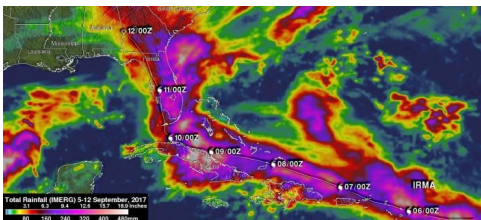
- Enhanced monitoring and prediction of tides, sea level rise and coastal erosion
- Track ocean heat storage and improve seasonal and individual hurricane forecasts
- Improve ship routing, fisheries management, and coupled ocean-atmosphere models

**All data available globally, at high horizontal and vertical resolution, with hourly (avg) revisit**

# What Will the Precipitation Products Look Like?

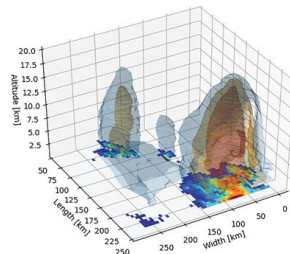
Visualization data and products will look similar to those from previous and current precipitation radar missions such as RainCube, TRMM and GPM

## 2D Precipitation Maps



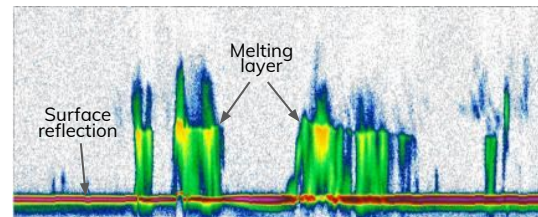
Example: Estimated rainfall from Hurricane Irma as shown by GPM IMERG

## 3D Precipitation Structure



Example: 3D structure of the "champion storm" from TRMM mission

## Vertical Cross-Section of Reflectivity



Example: Cross-section of Typhoon Trami from Raincube Mission



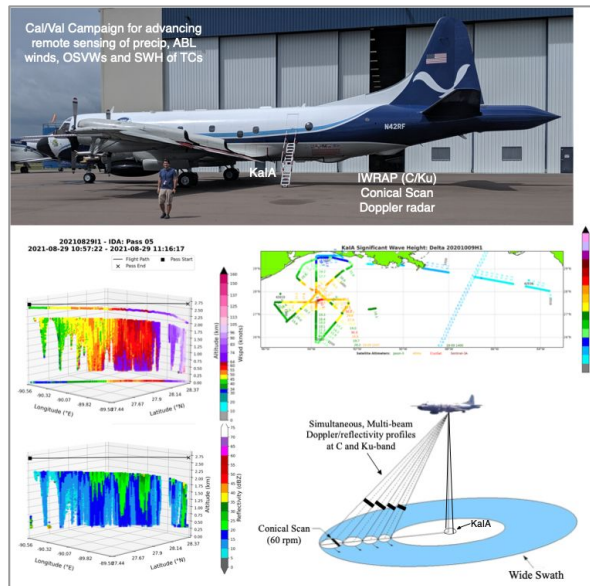
**Tomorrow.io** global coverage and hourly revisit rate **will dramatically improve** these real-time precipitation products and accumulated rainfall estimates, which are currently based on 3-4 day revisit times

# Calibration and Validation

Vertical profiles of precipitation will be retrieved across the instrument's 400 km swath width at a minimum rain rate sensitivity of 0.2 mm/hr (similar to GPM dual-frequency radar)

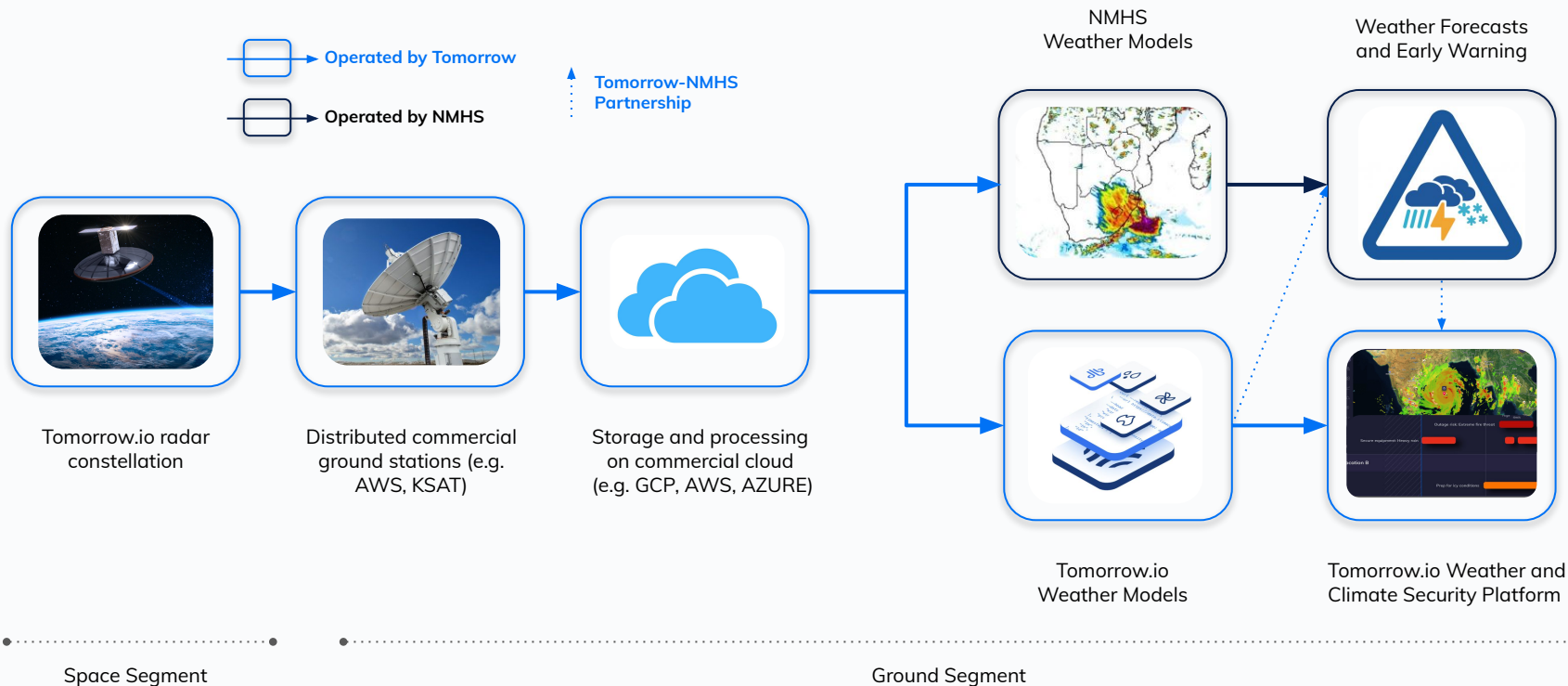
As part of the mission development roadmap, Tomorrow.io will perform extensive calibration and validation measurement campaigns—in collaboration with government, academic and industry partners—to verify the accuracy of the precipitation retrievals:

- Comparison against both ground-based and airborne sensors
- Validation of retrievals across a variety of geographies and precipitation regimes
- Internal simulation studies (using simulated L1 radar data) to develop algorithms prior to launch
- Airborne testing led by Tomorrow.io's radar team, which has extensive experience in both radar and airborne test campaigns



Calibration/Validation campaign executed by Tomorrow.io's ARENA team with NOAA. Radar reflectivity data is from Hurricane Ida (Aug. 2021) as observed by airborne conical scan Doppler radar. (Image credit: NOAA/NESDIS/STAR)


# High-Level Data Flow From Space to Mission Support



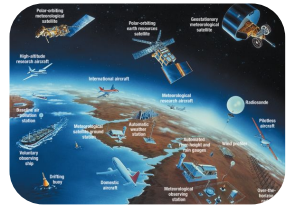


# Enabling Early Warning and Early Action Worldwide

**Tomorrow Space**



**Global Observing System**

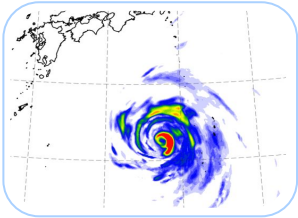


Private Sector Augmentation

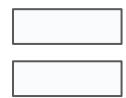
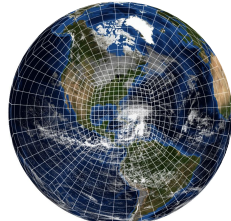


Public Weather Infrastructure

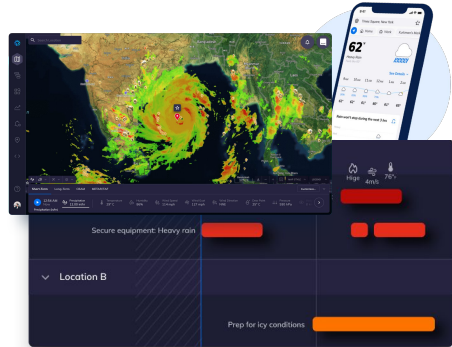
**Tomorrow Global and Regional NWP**



**World-Class NWP Models**



**Scalable Implementation of Early Warning Systems Across the Globe**



**And the Weather Intelligence Needed to Translate Early Warnings into Early Action**

# Tomorrow.io supports global scientific advancement and collaboration

## Data Sales and R&D Collaboration Approach

	Scientific Research	Operational Forecasting
Government (Defense)	Yes	Yes
Government (Civil)	Yes	Partial
Academia	Yes	N/A
Private	Case-by-case	No

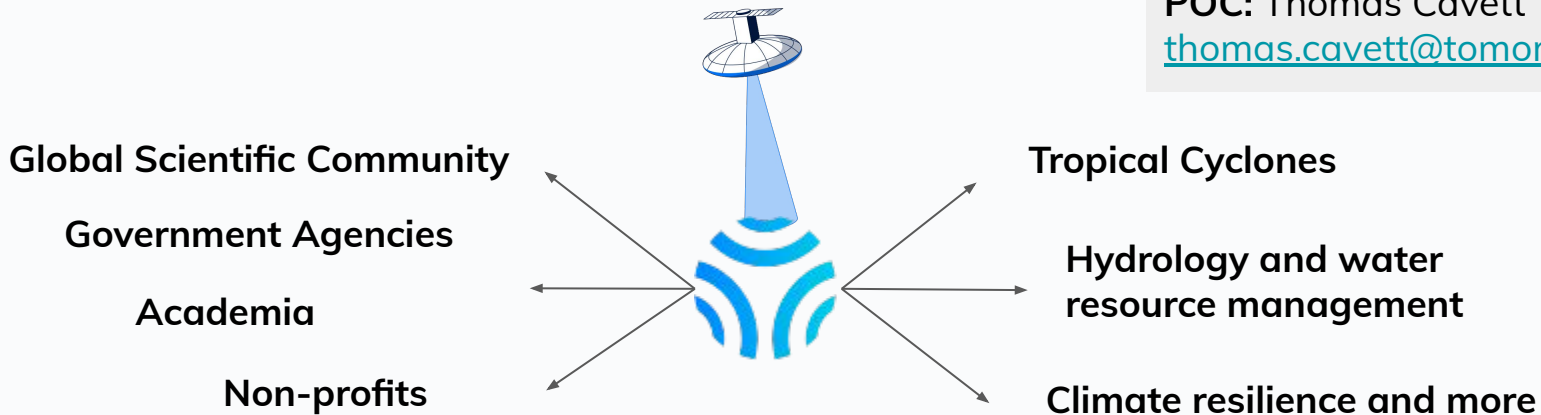
Licensed with some restrictions on data:

- **Geography** (e.g. localized region)
- **Parameter** (e.g. OSVW)
- **Latency** (e.g. delayed/historical archive)
- **Revisit** (e.g. reduced temporal resolution)
- **Forecast application** (case-by-case)



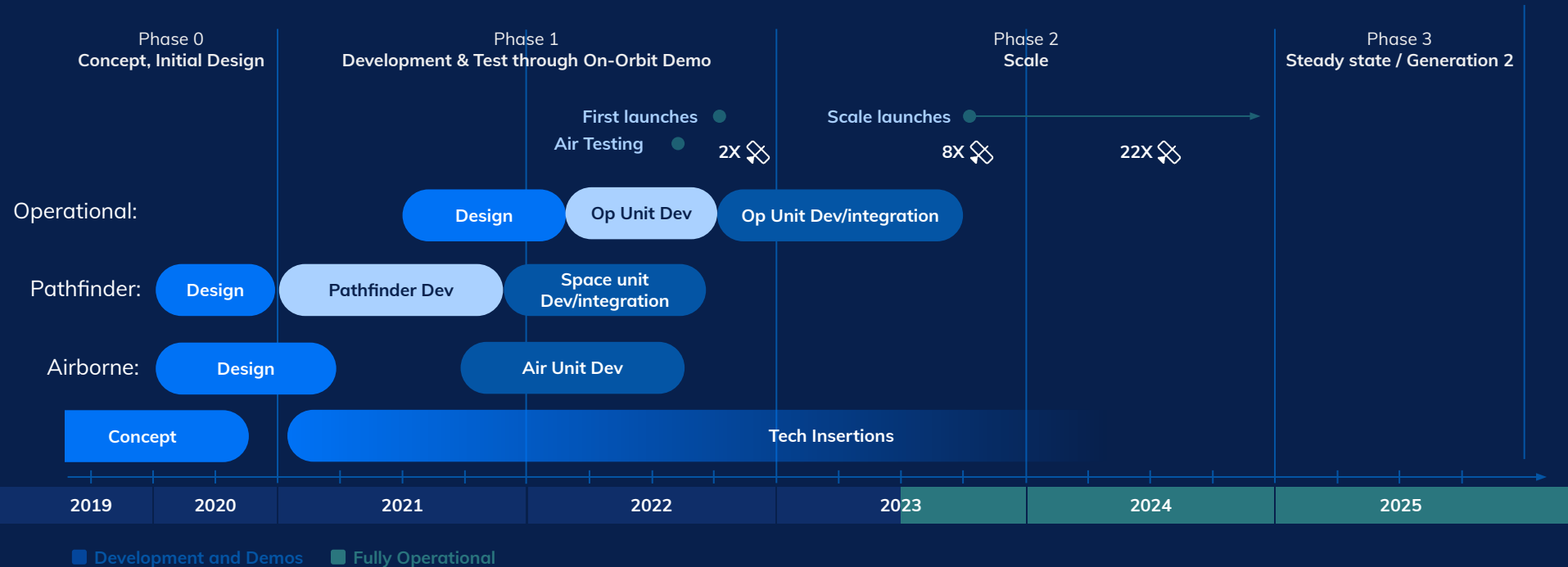
# Global Radar Observations Working Symposium (GROWS): An open-source, international collaboration to develop radar data assimilation tools to address global precipitation challenges

POC: Thomas Cavett  
[thomas.cavett@tomorrow.io](mailto:thomas.cavett@tomorrow.io)



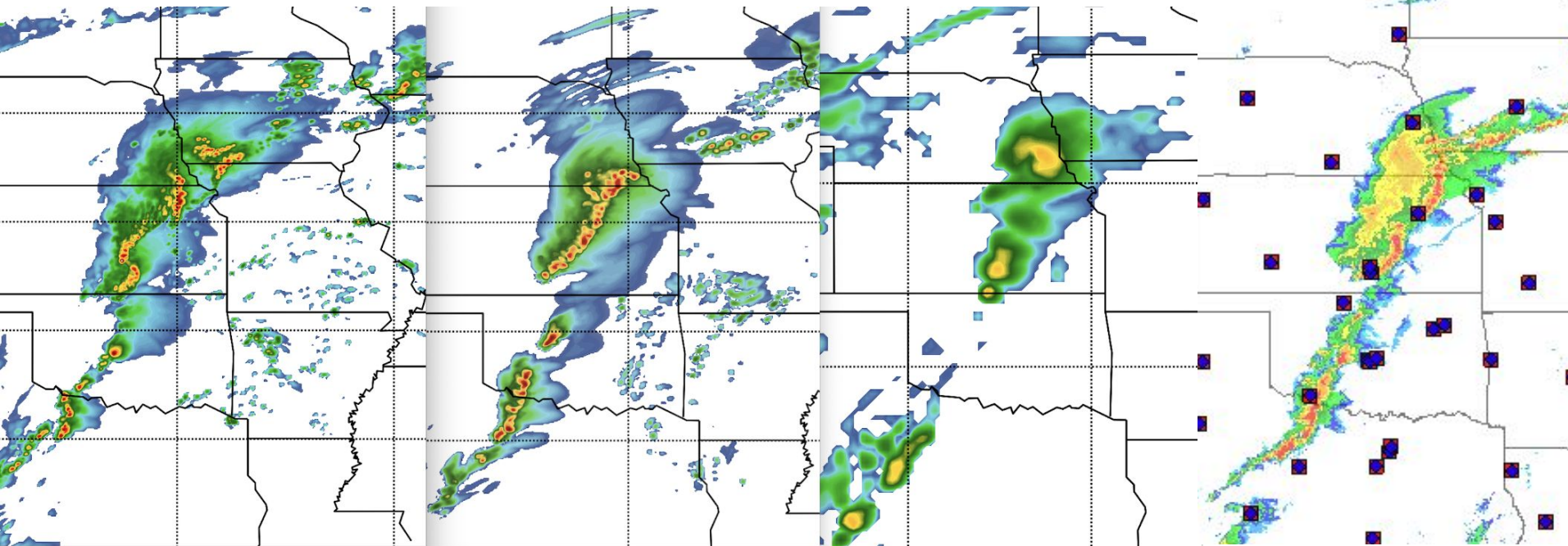
**Who** Global atmospheric science, meteorology and remote-sensing community who are passionate about bringing new tools to the forefront

# Development and Launch Timeline



# Global/Regional Model Versus Observations

Kansas Squall-Line case: 2018/05/03 00 UTC



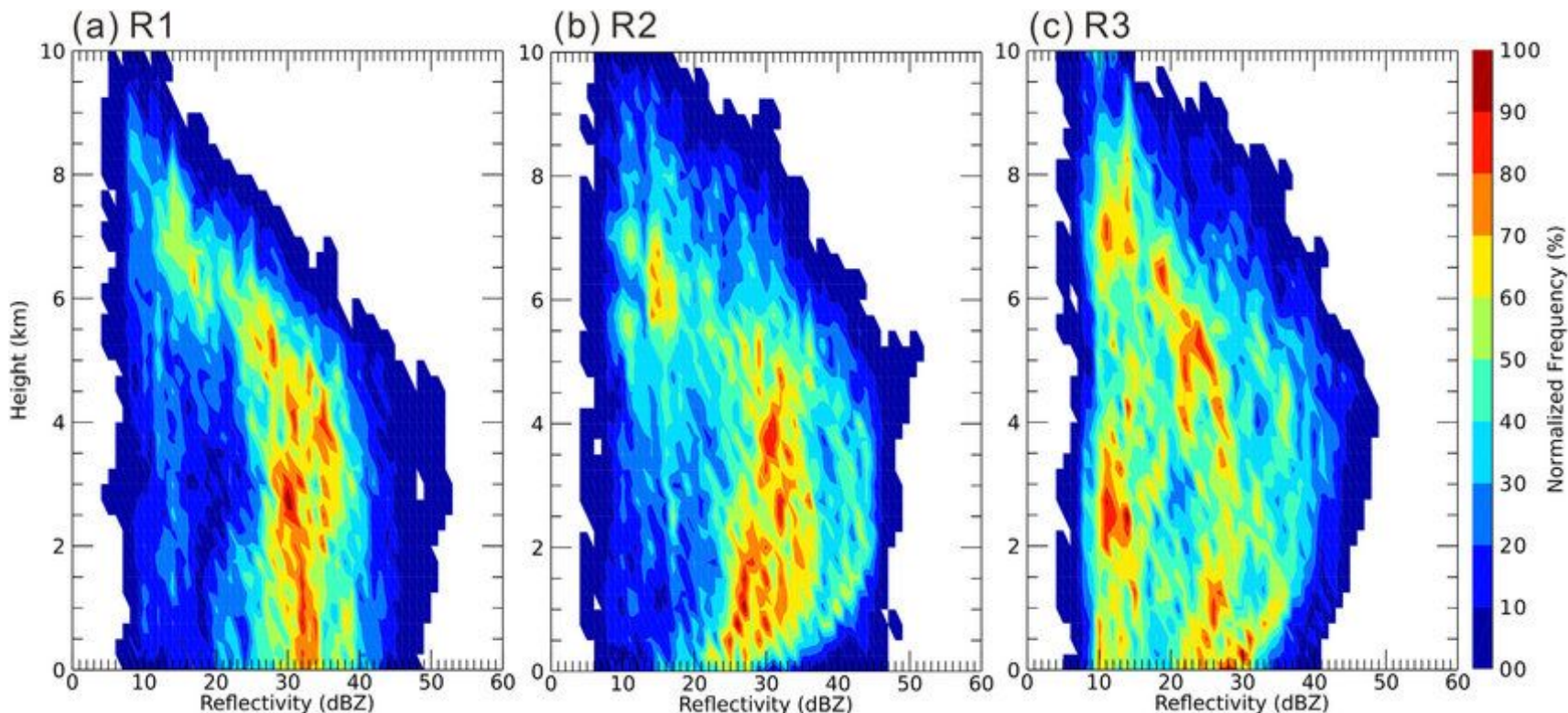
Regional model 1 (3 km)

Regional model 2 (3 km)

Global model (12 km)

NEXRAD composite observations

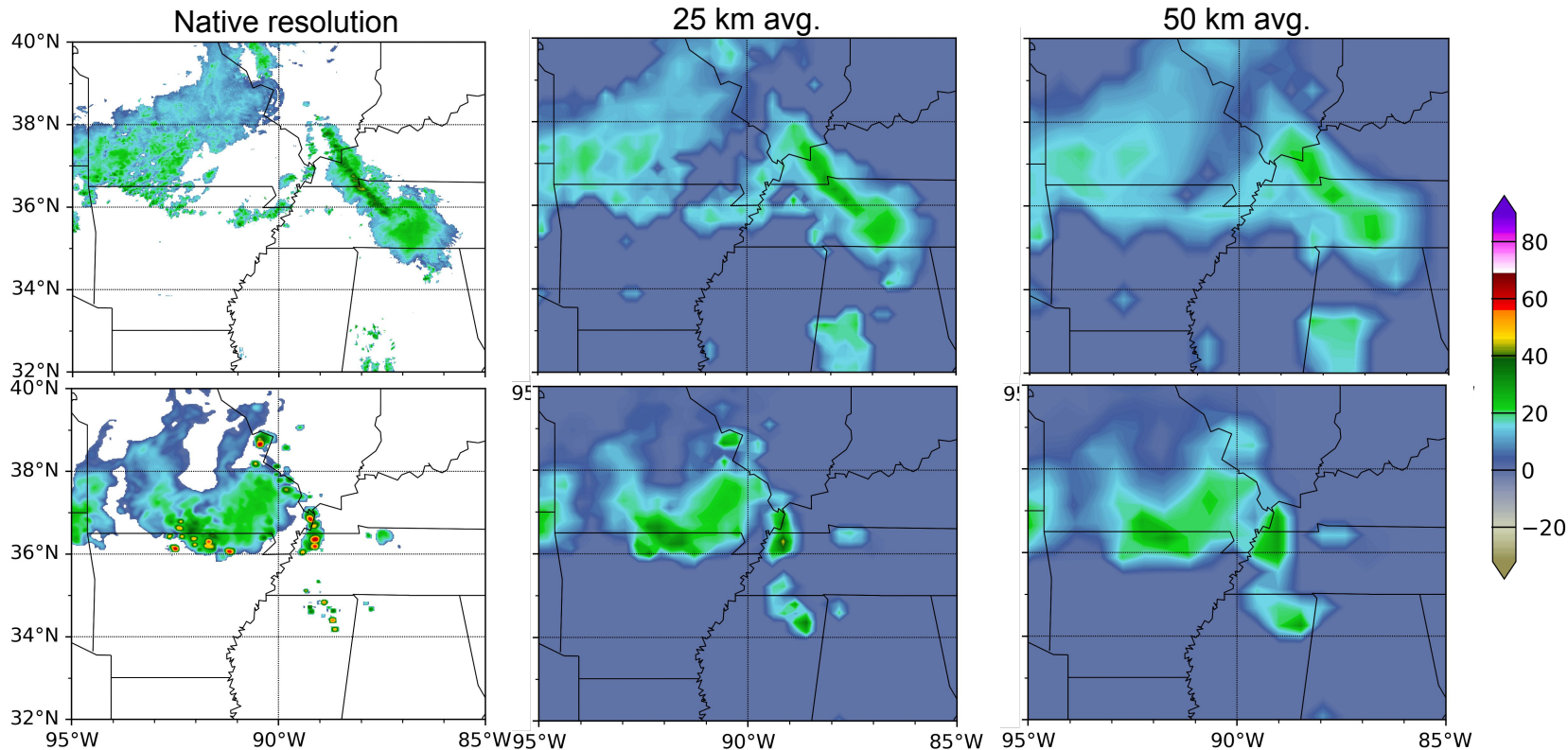
# Contoured Frequency by Altitude (CFAD) Diagram Example



[source](#)

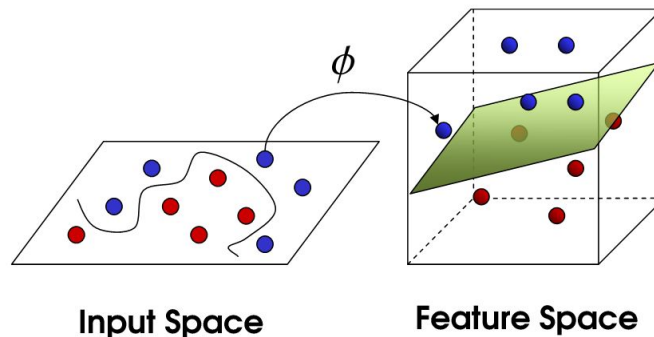
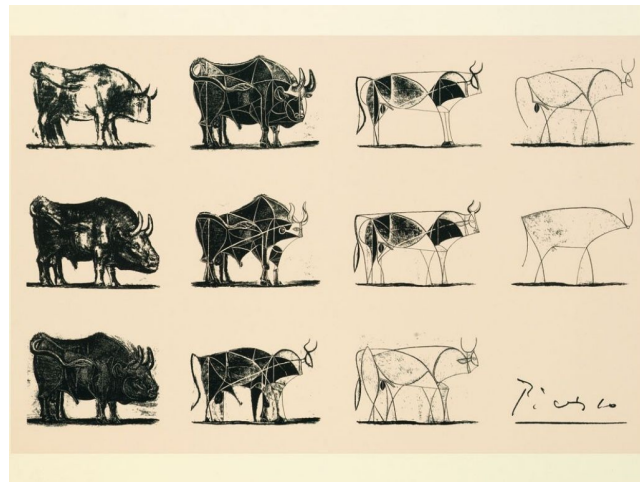
# MRMS 3D Mosaic and Model Simulated Radar Signals

Tennessee flooding - 2021/08/21 12z



# Observation Operator

- Ka-band physically realistic modelling (the full bull)
  - Likely too slow for DA applications
  - Need to capture uncertainty in microphysics
- Direct statistical operator regression: regress from  $x$  to  $y$ 
  - Find regression coefficients based on training DB
  - Similar to RTTOV
- Kernel regression: regress from  $x' = K(x)$  to  $y' = L(y)$ 
  - One kernel  $K$  for geophysical vars, another  $L$  for obs
    - Superobbing, thinning, averaging
    - Maximize variance explained: PCA
    - Maximize covariance explained: CCA
    - Neural networks
    - Classification (can only use observations)
    - Make use of the kernel trick





# Space Team

## Science and Engineering Leadership



**John Springmann, PhD**  
BlackSky  
Rocket Lab  
University of Michigan



**James Carswell, PhD**  
Remote Sensing  
Solutions  
UMass Amherst



**Richard Roy, PhD**  
NASA JPL  
University of Washington



**Joe Munchak, PhD**  
NASA Goddard  
Colorado State  
University



**Jeff Steward, PhD**  
NCAR, NASA JPL  
UCLA



**Scott Williams, PhD**  
SRI International  
Stanford University

## Advisory



**Whitney Q. Lohmeyer, PhD**  
MIT, OneWeb



**Christopher Williams, PhD**  
NASA GPM



**Jonny Dyer**  
SkyBox, Google  
Lyft

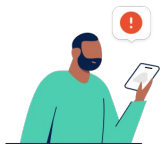
**Decades of accumulated experience** in dozens of commercial and government space missions, radar instruments, satellite data assimilation



# TomorrowNow.Org

We are invested in a future where everyone has access to the innovations needed to act and adapt to a changing climate.

We work with NGOs, Governments and multinational organizations to build capacity and **solve the hardest challenges of Climate Adaptation.**



**Billions still without access to early warnings**

## Delivering Hope with Innovation and Partnerships



“ Although desert locusts have been here since biblical times, recent intense outbreaks can be linked to anthropogenic climate change and the increased frequency of extreme weather events ”

[Nature Magazine](#)

### Partnering with



Digital Green



# Our Advisory Team

All-star advisory team with deep understanding of weather and space across government, defense and academia



**Kathryn Sullivan, PhD**

Former NOAA Administrator and NASA Astronaut

First US woman to walk in space and reach deepest point in ocean



**Kerri Cahoy, PhD**

Director, MIT STAR Lab  
Co-Director, MIT Small Satellite Center  
NASA and Stanford University



**Steve Smith**

Former NASA Astronaut and Lead Spacewalker

Director, International Space Station US National Laboratory



**Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet, PhD  
US Navy (Ret)**

Former NOAA Deputy Administrator

Former Commander, US Navy  
Meteorology & Oceanography Command



**Marshall Shepherd, PhD**

Director, University of Georgia  
Atmospheric Sciences Program

Elected to National Academy of  
Engineering; Former AMS President



**Keith Masback  
US Army (Ret)**

Former CEO, US Geospatial  
Intelligence Foundation

Former Senior Executive at NGA



**Thank you**