

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lightning Experts from Around the World to Meet in Norman June 15-20

NORMAN, OKLA. – About 200 national and international lightning experts from countries including England, France, Brazil, China, Russia, Poland and Japan as well as the United States will gather next week in Norman for the 15th Annual International Conference on Atmospheric Electricity. Co-hosted by the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory and the University of Oklahoma’s College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, the conference will feature the latest research on lightning and other electrical phenomena in the atmosphere.

The conference, scheduled for June 15 through 20 at the National Center for Employee Development Conference Center, is supported by the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics and the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences.

Research about a new instrument to be launched on the next weather satellite will be presented. This instrument will map where lightning occurs over both land and ocean in much of the hemisphere, including over the United States. Scientists are investigating how these new data can be used to improve the NOAA National Weather Service’s warnings and forecasts of hazardous weather.

Additional topics to be discussed include how thunderstorms become electrified; how storms initiate lightning flashes; what controls where lightning channels go; what influences which objects are struck by lightning; what processes affect the various kinds of discharges observed above storms, such as sprites, blue jets, and elves; and what causes the electric current that constantly flows through the atmosphere in fair weather.

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