

Stan Heckman Update on WTLN (09/20/2011)

As of this morning, we have shipped 598 systems. Some are down, or still sitting in customs or otherwise not working. In the last 10 seconds, I received data from 539 of these sites. 11 of those are test sites, so that leaves 528 real, working lightning sites in 36 countries. (Or 31 countries, depending on whether you count the Dutch Antilles and the Netherlands, Bermuda and UK, and Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and US and multiple countries or not.)

Here are the countries:

australia
bahamas
belize
bermuda
brazil
canada
cape verde
chile
congo
dutch antilles (netherlands)
ecuador
egypt
fiji
france
germany
iceland
india
ireland
italy
kenya
madagascar
mexico
mongolia
morocco
namibia
netherlands
new zealand
niger
philippines
puerto rico
south africa
spain
sri lanka
sweden
turkey
turks and caicos

uk
usa
virgin islands (us)
zambia

We sell several sensors a month outside the US.

I'm not sure what a count of "strokes" really means; I could count 50 times as many "strokes" per flash by locating smaller bumps and wiggles in the waveform than I do now, but would that really be valuable? That said, we currently locate 30 million "strokes" per day.

Our whole purpose in deploying our cloud flash network was to provide cloud flash data over large enough areas to use it operationally. We are very, very interested in collaborating with anyone who wants to develop operational tools to use cloud flash data. We don't see all the cloud flashes over the US, we only see about 2/3 of them, but we think that's enough to develop those tools. If anyone there is interested in incorporating our lightning cloud flash data in models, or using cloud flash data for operational warnings, I want to work with them. Our data is freely available for all research uses.

There must be people at this conference who want to use cloud flash data for things like this.