

**CONTACT:** Cindy Suggs  
N. America Toll-Free: (800) 231-5600 x 5710  
Worldwide Direct: (713) 947-5710  
[csuggs@univ-wea.com](mailto:csuggs@univ-wea.com)

## Universal Launches In-flight Alerts to Keep Flight Crews Informed

**Houston, TX (May 4, 2006)** – Volcanoes erupt. Airport workers go on strike. Thunderstorms can lead to tornadoes. Weather and other pertinent information can change in an instant, even in the midst of a flight. For this reason, Universal Weather and Aviation, Inc. (Universal®) developed an enhanced notification service called In-flight Alerts, which keeps flight crews apprised when weather hazards or other changing conditions affect planned and active flight routes.

Through significant system enhancements, Universal provides automated alerts of new weather or flight-impacting notifications to one of our 60 staff meteorologists. These experts then apply their experience to determine how such a notification may affect a planned or active flight. If conditions or notices warrant it, a meteorologist will message the crew (over air-to-ground communications) with an alert on the weather and airport conditions that may affect their route, destination or alternates.

“This In-flight Alerts service is especially valuable while the aircraft is in the air – when the crew is most vulnerable to changes that impact the flight,” said Ron Westheimer, Manager, Flight Planning and Weather Systems. “The service is intended to give pilots and crew the most current information to aid them in making informed decisions. When flight crews know what is happening outside the aircraft at all times, they are able to make better decisions on the inside.”

Conditions that warrant an alert to a Universal meteorologist include:

- SIGMETs (international and domestic)
- Categorical change in TAFs (4-hour window) and METARs (all) from initial weather delivery
- U.S. AIRMETs
- Convective SIGMETs
- Volcano SIGMETs or advisories
- NWS Severe Weather Warnings
- PIREPs/AIREPs along route (100nm either side of route, 100nm radius of all departure, destination, and alternate airports)
- Any new NOTAM (departure, destinations, alternates, ETP)
- New TFR NOTAMs (departure, destinations, alternates)

~ more ~

## **Universal Launches In-flight Alerts /Page 2**

Pricing is conveniently offered on an annual or a per-flight basis. A free trial period is available for this service. For information, call Worldwide (713) 944-1622 ext. 3300, N. America Toll-Free (800) 231-5600 ext. 3300, or e-mail [sales@univ-wea.com](mailto:sales@univ-wea.com).

###

*At Universal Weather and Aviation, Inc., our goal is to become a vital extension of our clients' flight operations teams. Universal<sup>®</sup> offers a wide range of services designed to provide business aviation operators seamless service from start to finish. Universal's wide range of services includes flight planning, weather briefings, online tools, the UVair<sup>®</sup> Fueling Card and the UVglobal Network<sup>®</sup>, UVdatalink<sup>®</sup> air-to-ground communication, and more. Universal has been facilitating successful trips for business aviation operators since 1959.*

*To learn more about Universal Weather and Aviation, Inc., e-mail [sales@universalweather.com](mailto:sales@universalweather.com), or call (800) 231-5600 ext. 3300 (N. America Toll-Free) or (713) 944-1622 ext. 3300 (Worldwide).*

*Universal: Success from the word GO.*