Vaisala's new Airport Lightning Information System (ALIS): Using Vaisala's GLD360<sup>™</sup> to improve cloud-to-ground lightning warnings, present weather reporting, and low level windshear situational awareness at airports anywhere in the world

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#### Brief GLD360 and ALIS introduction

- Low level windshear
- Present weather reporting
- Cloud-to-ground lightning warnings





# Lightning power spectrum and Vaisala detection technology





# **GLD360 lightning geo-location**





## **GLD360 global performance map**



GLD360 & NALDN Combined Detection Efficiency Map, 2012



VAISALA

### **GLD360 global performance map**

Validation results:

CG flash DE = 98%

CG stroke LA = 1.0 km

Validation results:

CG flash DE = ≥60% CG stroke LA = 2.5 km

> <u>Validation results:</u> CG flash DE = ≥70% CG stroke LA = 2.5 km

90% and up
80% to 90%
70% to 80%
50% to 70%
30% to 50%
20% to 30%
10% to 20%
less than 10%

GLD360 & NALDN Combined Detection Efficiency Map, 2012



VAISALA

### GLD360 annual global lightning density map July 2011 through June 2012





### Identifying and tracking a large thunderstorm complex producing significant straight-line wind damage 29-30 June 2012

#### Vaisala NLDN

Vaisala GLD360





### Vaisala ALIS Login screen

#### VAISALA / GLD360

User name Password

Login

Welcome to GLD360. Please log in using your user name and password.

Technical Support via Telephone (UK): +44 (0)121-683-126 Technical Support via Email (UK): helpdesk@vaisala.com



### Vaisala ALIS web-based display example Lightning color-coded by time (wide area view)

#### VAISALA / GLD360



Technical Support via Telephone (UK): +44 (0)121-683-1260, via Email (UK): helpdesk@vaisala.com



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# Gust front shelf cloud and debris from strong winds field





# Gust front outflow from a line of thunderstorms

National Academy of Sciences study performed for the FAA in 1983



FIGURE 6 Squall Line Thunderstorm Outflow (schematic). (Source: Goff, 1980).



# Low level windshear watch

 ALIS issues a low level windshear watch whenever lightning is detected within 30 km of the airport

"Lightning has been detected within 30 km of the airport. A low level windshear watch has been issued for the airport due to the possibility of thunderstorm-induced straight-line winds (gust fronts and outflows) moving through the airport."



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# **Thunderstorm reporting**

- ICAO Annex 3 titled states that "the following present weather phenomena shall be identified, as a minimum: precipitation and freezing precipitation, ..., thunderstorms (including thunderstorms in the vicinity)."
  - Thunderstorms (at the airport) are defined as being within 5 nm (9 km) of an airport
  - Thunderstorms in the vicinity of the airport are defined as being between 5 and 10 nm (9 and 19 km) of an airport



# **Example of thunderstorm at the airport**

# VAISALA / GLD360 £ Sibiti Mouvondz Data CC-By-SA by OpenStreetMan 20 km Updated on 26/04/2013 12:15:27 UTC @ Météorage 2013



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# Cloud-to-ground lightning warning methodology

Lightning detection network tracks lightning as it approaches the airport



ECSS 2013 / ALIS / 6 June 2013 / ©Vaisala

() VAISALA

### **Airport lightning warning study comparing** Vaisala NLDN precision network with GLD360



NLDN

**GLD360** 



### **Probability of detection (POD2)** 12 airports' lightning compared with thunderstorms



<sup>1</sup>National Weather Service (NWS) forecaster-enhanced warnings for three 2007 tornado outbreaks, Guillot et al.

<sup>2</sup>National Weather Service (NWS) forecaster-enhanced warnings for 2003-2007 severe thunderstorms, Keene et al.



# **Summary of ALIS features**

- GLD360 data subscription with an area defined by a 500 km radius from the airport
- Web-based lightning display with lightning events color-coded by time to assist with thunderstorm tracking
- Alarm radii at 5 nm (9 km) and 10 nm (19 km) to assist weather observers with "TS" and "VCTS" present weather reporting
- Alarm radii at 30 km used to issue low windshear watches for Air Traffic Controllers
- Customer-configurable alarm radius distance to issue cloud-toground lightning warnings to protect outdoor airport workers

