

De-brief: Strato-Ops 2026 (Stratospheric Operations Conference International 2026)

September 2–4, 2026 | Miyazaki, Japan | UND Participants: David Delene and Ryan Adams

Meeting Overview

- **Purpose:**
 - Stratospheric Operations and Platforms
 - Telecommunications (Filling the gap between the surface and space)
 - Meteorology (In-situ observations, Remote Sensing of the Earth Surface)
 - Surveillance and Reconnaissance (Continues Surface Observations)
- **Attendees:**
 - Joe Cione – NOAA (Hurricanes, Streamsondes)
- **Sessions:**
 - Session 4 – Chair Eric Fjollstad
 - Delene, David J., Ronald Fevig, Paul Snyder, University-Led Stratospheric Operations and Observations: Past and Future (pdf)

Contacts and Partnerships

- Paul Stenves, Voilitude
 - Fly same optical particle counter at UND
 - Data Skills Pathway Program Partner
 - Build Instrument Package using Standard Configuration
 - Stratospheric Relative Humidity
 - Compressed Air for Improve Accuracy of Gas Phase Measurements
- Russ Van Der Werff, AeroStar
 - Data Skills Pathway Program Partner
 - 2026 HAPS Alliance Member Meeting (09/29 to 10/01, Sioux Falls)
- Joe Cione, NOAA
 - Hurricanes, streamsondes, South Korea Aircraft Upgrade

Key Technical Takeaways

- **Results, Capability, and Methods:**
 - Platforms have been proven and Operations Conducted
- **Instruments, Platform, and Datasets**
 - Lighter-than-air
 - Aerostar – Russ Van Der Werff (Sioux Falls, USA)
 - Higher-than-air
 - Voilitude – Paul Stevens (UK)
- **Open Problems**
 - How to make operations routine?
 - What are the applications customers will continuously pay for?

Actions and Next Steps

- **Requests:**
 - UND create a Database of Stratospheric Platforms
- **Meetings:**
 - Attend the 2026 HAPS Alliance Member Meeting
 - Attend Future Strato-Ops Meetings
 - 2027 Strato-Ops Meeting in Europe before returning to U.S.
 - Possibly in Spain
- Create Stratospheric Operations and Observations Center (SOOC)

Bottom Line: *There is a lot of potential; however, when, where and exactly how much funding will be available in the near future.*