Science On a Sphere®  
(SOS)  

Technical Innovation and Network Growth

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GSD Science Review  
3-5 Nov 2015
NOAA’s most impactful outreach tool for public science education

128 Sites Installed

0.5 TB Data Distributed/Day

68” Sphere, 4 Projectors, 1 Linux Server, 1 iPad

NOAA’s #1 Award

$1.20 Stamp

100 Most Influential

2.6K Web Visits/Day

30K Likes
Unique Patented Technology
Technical Innovation: Examples Since 2010

Hardware:

Computer Systems:
SD → HD → 4K

Controller:
Wii → iPad

Alignment: Manual → Auto

Software:

Zoom
Presentation Creation

Interactive Display Tools

Content:

Real-time
6K+ hi-res

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GSD Science Review
SOS Growth and Reach

- 128 Science On a Sphere® (SOS) installations worldwide in:
  - Museums
  - Visitors Centers
  - Aquariums
  - Labs
  - Schools/Univ.
  - Zoos
  - 71 Domestic in 29 States
  - 57 International in 22 Countries

- 33 million viewers per year
- Technology transferred by 12 distributors worldwide
- SOS Data Catalog contains 500+ freely available datasets:
The SOS Network

• **SOS Network:** institutions with SOS and partners creating and sharing content and educational programming for SOS
  o Build capacity of presenters
  o Provide guidelines for good SOS content
  o Evaluate the effectiveness of SOS

• **SOS Education Webinars** held quarterly

• **SOS Users Collaborative Network Workshops**
The Value of SOS

• Support NOAA’s goal to enhance **environmental literacy**
  o Engage audiences of all ages
  o Build public understanding of diverse topics
  o Foster appreciation for the interconnectedness of the planet

• Excellent **collaboration and outreach** opportunities

• Discovering **innovative** ways to use SOS

• **Network surveys**: *
  o 82% of visitors stated that seeing information on the sphere is more realistic and changed how they understood the information
  o 87% of visitors who had a facilitated sphere experience reported learning something new

* Science On a Sphere®: Cross-Site Summative Evaluation, Sept. 2010