



The Trials, Tribulations & Excitement of Running a Private Weather Company: From Forensic Meteorology to Atmospheric Problem Solving and Beyond!

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Weather is a business and it is BIG business. Weather and climate used to be left to governments to 'take care of', now private weather companies are far surpassing the government in terms of the number of 'clients' and dollars. Global economies are directly and indirectly affected by weather and climate change. Back in 1998 in testimony to the U.S. Congress, former commerce secretary William Daley stated, "Weather is not just an environmental issue; it is a major economic factor. At least \$1 trillion of our economy is weather sensitive."

WeatherExtreme Ltd. was founded in 1994 and provides specialty forecasts, forensic meteorology and weather problem solving to industry, governments and private companies. Being a small weather company in today's world presents both exciting opportunities and challenges. Dr. Austin will discuss some of her most challenging forensic meteorology cases along with experiences being the Chief Scientists and forecaster for the record-breaking Perlan Project.

Currently in phase II of III phases, the Airbus Perlan Mission II is an initiative to fly an engineless glider with two pilots to the edge of space (100,000 feet), higher than any other winged aircraft has operated in level, controlled flight, to open up a world of new discoveries related to high-altitude flight, climate change and space exploration. Our scientific research will employ an instrumented glider that has the capacity to soar deep into waves and thus answer some very important questions concerning the source of stratospheric gravity waves and their genesis.