

DATA DISCLOSURE & USE POLICY

How We Collect, Use, Share, and Control Access to Atmospheric & Operational Data

Midwest Stratospheric Data Systems ("MSDS," "the Company," "we," or "us") is committed to transparent atmospheric science and the responsible handling of data collected through our high-altitude balloon missions, telemetry systems, website, and data portal. This policy describes what data we collect, how we collect and use it, the conditions of public access, and important restrictions.

1. What Data We Collect

Depending on the flight and systems in use, MSDS may collect and process:

- Atmospheric measurements (temperature, pressure, wind profiles, moisture indicators, and related environmental parameters)
- Position and tracking data (GPS coordinates, altitude, time, ascent/float/descent profiles)
- Telemetry packets and radio transmissions under amateur radio license KE9CFY (APRS, WSPR, and related modes)
- Recovery and operational logs necessary for safe flight execution and post-flight analysis
- Limited website and portal usage information (e.g., access logs, technical diagnostics) when users visit midwestsds.com or related services

2. How We Collect Data

Primary scientific and tracking data are collected by onboard sensors and trackers during high-altitude balloon flights of platforms such as the X2Griffon and MAD-AP systems. Data are transmitted in near real time via amateur radio telemetry and/or recovered after landing. Additional operational and website data are generated through normal mission operations and standard web-server logging. We do not sell personal information. We do not intentionally collect sensitive personal data from the general public beyond what is voluntarily provided (for example, contact emails sent to us).

3. How We Use the Data

MSDS uses collected data to: advance open atmospheric science; publish and improve public datasets; operate and refine our flight systems; support educational outreach (including NearSpace Kids materials); meet regulatory and safety obligations; and communicate mission results. Aggregated or anonymized insights may also support partnership discussions and organizational planning. Public-facing datasets are released with the goal of broad accessibility for learning, curiosity, and non-restricted personal use.

4. Public Access & Open Data Goal

MSDS aims to release high-quality atmospheric datasets via its public data portal with rapid turnaround after recovery. Access to published datasets is generally provided free of charge for personal, educational, and non-commercial exploration. However, access is a privilege granted by MSDS and is not an unrestricted license for all possible uses.

5. Restrictions on Use — Scientific & Government Applications

Use of MSDS data (including raw or processed atmospheric profiles, telemetry records, flight metadata, or derived products) for scientific research, formal academic publication, government applications, regulatory filings, commercial products, or any institutional decision-making is **not permitted without prior written permission from MSDS**. Unauthorized use for these purposes is prohibited. Parties wishing to use MSDS data in scientific, governmental, or commercial contexts must contact us in advance to request authorization and any applicable terms.

6. Right to Revoke Access

MSDS reserves the unilateral right to modify, restrict, suspend, or permanently revoke access to any dataset, portal feature, telemetry feed, or related service at any time, for any reason, with or without prior notice. This includes the right to withdraw previously published data from public distribution or to limit access by specific users, organizations, or use cases. Continued access depends on compliance with this policy and any additional terms we may publish.

7. Attribution, Updates & Controlling Source

When permission is granted for restricted uses, proper attribution to Midwest Stratospheric Data Systems and the specific mission or dataset is required unless otherwise agreed in writing. This policy may be updated at any time. The version published on <http://midwestsds.com> is the controlling version. In case of conflict between printed copies and the website, the website controls.

IMPORTANT SUMMARY

- Personal and educational exploration of published data is generally welcomed.
- Scientific, governmental, academic-publication, or commercial use requires prior written permission.
- MSDS may revoke or restrict access to any data at any time.
- Request permissions or ask questions: launchcontrol@midwestsds.com

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Effective July 2026 • This policy may be revised periodically. Current version available at midwestsds.com