

## ASU First With One-Of-A-Kind Weather Rig

Written by Steve Frank

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How important is it to know the exact weather when you invite some 30,000 people to an event. Apparently pretty darn important for the athletics department at Appalachian State University, where there is a first-in-the world weather station now in operation at Kidd Brewer Stadium. But the Lufft WS600 weather system, tied to a Schneider Electric weather forecasting and support system has already had an impact at the stadium, allowing ASU officials to determine that threatening weather was approaching a July 6th concert there, allowing them to make the judgment call to empty the stadium until the severe weather had passed. Mark Holland, of Transportation Equipment & Services, said the equipment now in place is cutting edge in local microclimate information, "We believe that this is a one-of-a-kind system for an educational institution in the world. What this system consists of; at Kidd Brewer Stadium, we have a complete weather station—a Lufft weather station, and with that it ties into a Schneider Electric weather forecasting. What we've added to this that is completely unique, we've put a complete weather station with it." Holland said that the station provides doppler radar evaluation of the precipitation, Holland said that it is particularly important with the distance of Boone from other weather sources, and that the information is instantly relayed for staff to make a decision about weather conditions on the campus. The system also alerts to other combinations of weather that could be harmful, such as heat and humidity that would change what the athletics department is doing at the moment, maybe changing the way a practice is going, delaying an event due to weather and making more informed choices. Holland said that facilities managers across the country and around the world are already looking at the system at ASU to protect events at their properties, with the system working here is unique in how it operates and the information available to App staff.