**Questions for Session on Space Weather Operations and User Perspectives**

The identification of more rigorous baselines will help assess the decision makers in governments and industry better plan for extreme space weather events. Benchmarks for space weather must capture the most important features of an event in order to provide useful input for creating engineering standards, develop vulnerability assessments, establish decision points and thresholds for action, understand risk, develop more-effective mitigation procedures and practices, and enhance response and recovery planning.

At the Next Step Benchmarks Workshop we will dedicate a session – *Space Weather Operations and User Perspectives* – that will focus on the value of the benchmarks for the end user. To guide the discussion, we ask that you consider the following questions:

* From your perspective, what is the value of the benchmarking activity and how could it be made more valuable for you?
* What level of precision and confidence is necessary for the benchmark values to be useful for operations or planning? E.g. do you need them within a factor 2 or 0.2?
* This workshop has convened scientists to recommend changes and update research; what do you want us to know about what you do to inform our path forward?
* Are there ongoing or planned efforts within the operations/user community that could inform the Phase 2 benchmark effort, e.g. NERC GMD Task Force, Applied Space Environments Conference, ION GNSS.
* What are recommended avenues for engaging with operators to refine the benchmarks?