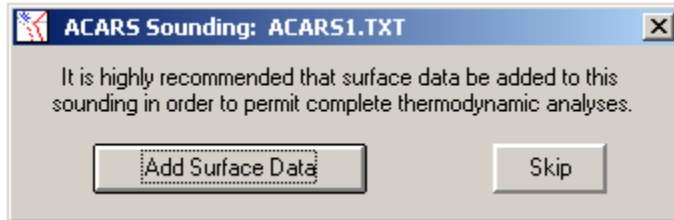


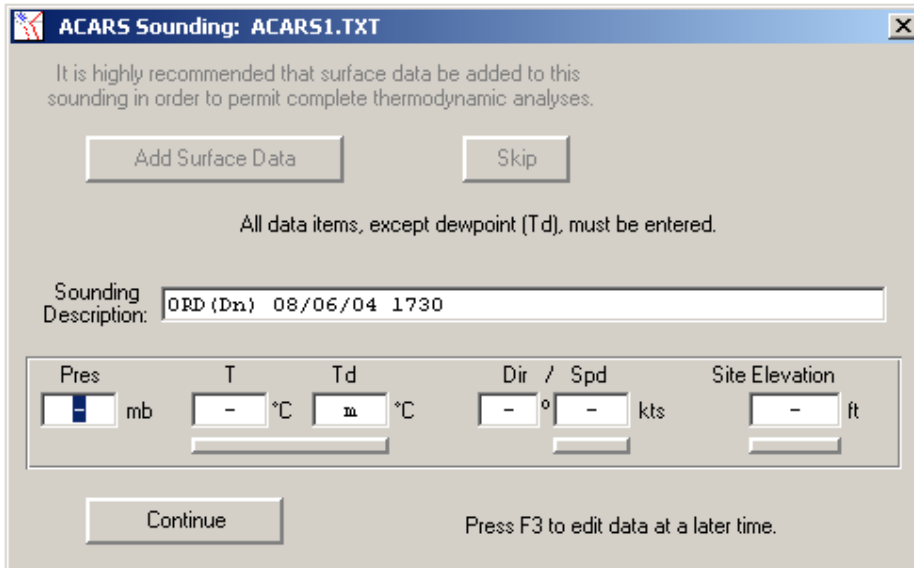
## ACARS (Aircraft Communication Addressing and Reporting System)

ACARS data is transmitted real-time via VHF radio during ascent and descent from airports. This data is mostly proprietary and typically can only be obtained via subscription. Since ACARS data normally begins at the 2,000 foot level, RAOB automatically prompts the user to add “surface” data in order to optimize the calculation of the sounding’s thermodynamic analyses. See example prompt message below ...



If “Skip” is selected, RAOB continues processing without surface data.

If “Add Surface Data” is selected, then the following data entry form is presented to the user ...

A screenshot of a Windows-style dialog box titled "ACARS Sounding: ACARS1.TXT". The dialog contains the text: "It is highly recommended that surface data be added to this sounding in order to permit complete thermodynamic analyses." Below the text are two buttons: "Add Surface Data" and "Skip". Below the buttons is the text: "All data items, except dewpoint (Td), must be entered." Below this text is a text box labeled "Sounding Description:" containing the text "ORD (Dn) 08/06/04 1730". Below the text box is a form with five columns: "Pres" with a dropdown menu showing "mb", "T" with a dropdown menu showing "°C", "Td" with a dropdown menu showing "m" and "°C", "Dir / Spd" with two dropdown menus showing "°" and "kts", and "Site Elevation" with a dropdown menu showing "ft". Below the form is a "Continue" button and the text "Press F3 to edit data at a later time.".

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Note: the ACARS decoder is only available with the optional Special Data Decoders module.