

IV.1 Central Bureau

The IERS began operation in January 1988. After a decade, its structure was reorganized by the Directing Board for the following reasons:

Firstly the various techniques GPS, Laser tracking to the Moon and to artificial satellites and also VLBI into international Services had already been reorganized into international services IGS, ILRS and IVS, respectively in 1994, 1998 and 1999.

Secondly to give more visibility to the different components of the IERS.

Thirdly in order to open the service to new scientific groups which had developed in various countries in the meantime.

Following discussions which took place at the IERS workshop in Paris in Fall 1996 and during the "IERS retreat" held in Potsdam in September 1998, new Terms of Reference were formulated and adopted by the IERS Directing Board in March 1999. The IAG, IAU and FAGS were acknowledged of these new Terms of Reference in 1999.

The Call for Participation in the new IERS was disseminated on 16 November 1999 via the IERS Gazette 46 and also more officially through hard copies directly sent to 34 different institutions of various countries. After reviewing the various submitted proposals, a Review Board lead by Ivan Mueller presented recommendations to the Directing Board which then voted separately on each recommendation. The list of institutions in charge of the different activities are presented in the present annual report. The new structure of the IERS began operation on January 1, 2001.

During the course of 2000 the Central Bureau activities were smoothly transferred from Paris Observatory to the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) with Bernd Richter as its director designee.

During 2000, the former Central Bureau in Paris performed the general management and daily coordination of its activities involving the relationships with users, the archival and dissemination of products, IERS gazettes and relevant documentation and information. Several publications were made, including in particular an Annual Report for 1999 and the Technical Note No. 28 (High-frequency to subseasonal variations in

Earth Rotation, B. Kolaczek, H. Schuh and D. Gambis (eds.)).

The former and the forthcoming Central Bureau organised the following directing board meetings:

No. 30, June 3-4, 2000, US Naval Observatory, Washington D.C.,

No. 31, September 14-15, 2000, Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main,

No. 32, December 18, 2000, Moscone Centre, San Francisco, California, USA.

On request of the IERS Directing Board the forthcoming Central Bureau organized a meeting on an IERS Data Base. The meeting took place in Paris, October 31, 2000. The goal was to find out 1) how the data flow inside the IERS, as well as between its product centers and the technique/analysis centers on the one hand, and the users on the other hand, works at present and how it should be organized in the future, 2) which data/products should be collected, archived and displayed at a central place (IERS Data Base/Data Centre).

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