

3.5.3 Convention Centre

The Convention Center is provided jointly by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO). In 2003, the work accomplished or in progress is the following.

Final edition of the IERS Conventions (2003)

After final work on remaining issues, mostly in Chapters 5 (Transformation Between the Celestial and Terrestrial Systems), 9 (Tropospheric Model), 10 (General Relativistic Models for Space-Time Coordinates and Equations of Motion) and in the general outline of the document, the final edition of the IERS Conventions (2003) was submitted to the IERS Central Bureau in November 2003. The corresponding files are available on <http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conv2003.html>. This electronic release was announced in IERS Message No. 49, and accompanied by a questionnaire to the general IERS community asking for comments on the present version and future evolution of the IERS Conventions.

Preparation for future versions of the Conventions

The IERS Convention Center intends to provide updated versions of the Conventions in electronic form, after proper approval of the IERS Directing Board. These editions will be clearly marked regarding the date of their electronic publication. In the mean time, work on interim versions will also be available by electronic means. Work is currently under way to prepare for this new electronic maintenance. In addition to the electronic releases, printed versions of the Conventions will be provided at less frequent intervals or when major changes are introduced.

On the technical issues, topics are being identified as needing investigation and possible new developments for future versions of the Conventions. Several such topics concern contributions to the difference between the instantaneous position of a site and its regularized position, such as the effects of geocenter motion or atmospheric loading.

Studies on the consistency of Conventions and IERS products

The BIPM has provided for a visiting scientist to conduct studies on the consistency of the Conventions and IERS products. Jim Ray, from the U.S. National Geodetic Survey, has taken this one-year position from September 1, 2003.

The Convention Center contributes to the ongoing work to implement new conventional models and procedures. Some important topics for the future include geocenter motion, impact of using global as opposed to local loading models, and network effects in the solutions of different techniques. It also will participate in new studies, such as the development of rigorous multi-technique product combinations, through collaboration in the new Combination Pilot Project.

- References** McCarthy D.D., Petit G., IERS Conventions, IAU Joint Discussion 16, Sydney, 2003.
- Ray J., Petit G., Altamimi Z., Requirements for improved definitions and realizations of the ITRF origin and geocenter motion, AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, 2003.

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