

3.7.3 Working Group on Combination at the Observation Level

During 2009, a Kick-off meeting was organized at the “Centre for Space Research” of Poland in Warsaw, 21–22 October. A working group was created in the frame of IERS, the “Combination at the Observation Level” IERS COL-WG. Its main objective is to bring together groups able to do combinations of space geodetic techniques at the observation level in order to improve the accuracy, the time resolution and the overall consistency of the products. A major task of the WG COL is to study methods and advantages of combining space geodetic techniques (DORIS, GPS, SLR, VLBI), searching for an optimal strategy to solve for geodetic parameters and to intercompare the solutions obtained by different software, Bernese for AIUB, DOGS / OCCAM for DGFI, NAPEOS for ESOC and GINS / DYNAMO for GRGS. Participants have decided to pursue the activity of research on multi-techniques combination at the observation level. Five analyses centres – AIUB from Bern, DGFI from Munich, ESOC from Darmstadt, GFZ from Potsdam and GRGS from Toulouse – have scheduled different steps of processes. The first step consisted in choosing a period of test of benchmark during the CONT08 comparison campaign extended from 10th to 30th August 2008. Over this period, each analysis centre had to deliver weekly normal equations of different geodetic techniques including daily EOP, weekly station coordinates, and weekly quasar coordinates for VLBI and hourly troposphere delays. The format for all normal equations spanning the three weeks is the normalised SINEX format.

For the communication in the COL-WG, an electronic “Forum Multi-technique Combinations” was established at the Paris Observatory at <<http://grgs.obspm.fr/forum/>>. This forum is open to anyone willing to participate in the work of the COL-WG. Registration is firstly required.

The minutes and the presentations of the Kick-off meeting are available at the “Forum Multi-technique Combinations” and at the working group’s web site at <<http://www.iers.org/WGCOL>>.

Members of the COL-WG are:

Richard Biancale, France (Chair)
Daniel Gambis, France (Co-Chair)
Zuheir Altamimi, France
Sarah Böckmann, Germany
Richard Gross, USA
Rolf König, Germany
Jean-Michel Lemoine, France
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3.7 IERS Working Groups

Mykhailo Lytvyn, Ukraine
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