

3.2 Central Bureau

General activities

The IERS Central Bureau (CB), hosted and funded by Bundesamt für Kartographie and Geodäsie (BKG), organized and documented the IERS Directing Board (DB) Meetings No. 54, April 22, 2012, at Technical University Vienna, Austria, and No. 55, December 1, 2012, at Westin Hotel, San Francisco, California, USA. Between the meetings the CB coordinated the work of the DB.

The CB participated in organizing the GGFC Workshop, held April 20, 2012, at Vienna, by preparing the web site of this meeting. For a summary see Section 4. The CB represented the IERS in the ICSU World Data System (WDS) and at the following meetings: European Geosciences Union General Assembly, 28th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union, and AGU 2012 Fall Meeting.

IERS components maintain individually about 10 separate web sites. The central IERS site <www.iers.org>, established by the CB, gives access to all other sites, offers information on the structure of the IERS, its products and publications and provides contact addresses as well as general facts on Earth rotation studies. It contains also electronic versions of IERS publications, as well as link lists for IERS, Earth rotation in general and related fields. Throughout 2012 the web site was continually updated, several new pages and documents were added. New link lists for VLBI and DORIS were created, other link lists were extensively updated. An extended list of meetings related to the work of the IERS was maintained. The CB maintains also the web pages of the IERS working groups and added several new documents to these pages. A web page for the new IERS Working Group on Site Coordinate Time Series Format was created.

IERS Technical Note No. 37 "Analysis and results of ITRF2008" was published online.

The CB started to edit the IERS Annual Reports 2010 and 2011. Along with the reports of the IERS components, provided by them, the annual reports contain general information on the IERS compiled by the CB. For both reports, the CB provided also summaries of DB meetings and its own reports, as well as a report about the Third GGOS Unified Analysis Workshop.

A report about the activities of the IERS during 2009 to 2012 was compiled for IAU Division I.

During the year 2012, 21 IERS Messages (Nos. 201–221) were edited and distributed. They include news from the IERS and of general type as well as announcements of conferences.

Address and subscription information has regularly been updated in the IERS user database. There were about 2500 users in 2012 with valid addresses who subscribed to IERS publications

for e-mail and regular mail distribution. The development of a new system of address management was started in cooperation with a software company. The improved system, which will be related to the Content Management System “Government Site Builder” used for the IERS web site, will allow easier maintenance and will give access for users to register as well as to check and update their data through the IERS web pages.

Questions from IERS users concerning IERS publications and products as well as Earth rotation and reference frames in general were answered or forwarded to other specialists.

A member of the CB continued to work in the Control Body for an ISO Geodetic Register Network, which will contain standardized and proved data on reference systems, and became member of the ISO project “Geodetic references”.

IERS Data and Information System (DIS)

The IERS Data and Information System (IERS DIS) is continuously being adapted and extended by new components in order to fulfill the requirements for a modern data management and for the access to the data by the users. In this context international and interdisciplinary projects like the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS) or the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) are demanding special requirements with respect to the standardization of the data and applications on the data.

Besides routine work like maintenance of the data bases of users, products and web pages, in 2012 further developments of the IERS DIS concentrated on the following aspects:

- acquisition of data from IERS services and institutions,
- conversion of the data into uniform formats as well as extraction and creation of ISO 19115-conform metadata,
- integration of new data sources,
- start of the test phase of a new data management system.

The previous data management system has been in use since 2006. An analysis made in 2010/11 showed that a completely new software system is needed to fulfill future demands. Such a new system was developed during 2012 by a software company in cooperation with the CB. The new system should be easier to handle and be more flexible and expandable for new products. It is also no longer connected with the address management for better data security.

Earth Rotation Information System (ERIS)

ERIS has been executed at BKG since June 2006 as part of the research unit FOR 584 “Earth Rotation and Global Dynamic Processes” supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG). ERIS served as a development and testing platform for new interactive

3.2 Central Bureau

data access tools as well as an information portal. Furthermore, it was used as an exchange platform within the research unit.

The internet portal <<http://www.erdrotation.de>> developed in the framework of ERIS integrates data, models as well as scientific information and procedures in due consideration of state-of-the-art technology. It is addressed to both experts and the interested public.

The project ERIS ended on 14 March 2012.

Staff in 2012

Dr. Bernd Richter, Director

Sabine Bachmann, scientist

Dr. Wolfgang R. Dick, scientist

Sonja Geist, technician

Carola Helbig, secretary

Michael Lösler, technician

Anja Niederhöfer, scientist (until 14 March 2012)

Sandra Schneider, technician

Wolfgang R. Dick