

3.5.3 Conventions Centre

The Conventions Center is operated jointly by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO).

The Conventions Center provides updated versions of the IERS Conventions in electronic form, after approval of the IERS Directing Board. In the meantime, work on interim versions is also available by electronic means. In addition to the electronic releases, printed versions of the Conventions will be provided at less frequent intervals or when major changes are introduced.

Over 2012, the work accomplished or in progress is the following:

1. Technical content of the IERS Conventions

After the publication of the new reference edition, the IERS Conventions (2010), in electronic form (<http://tai.bipm.org/iers/conv2010/>) and as IERS Technical Note 36, work started on the updates to the Conventions (2010). The list below summarizes the changes in 2012. See <http://tai.bipm.org/iers/convupdt/convupdt.html> (or the site at <http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conv2010/convupdt.html>) for details.

- Corrected typos or other numerical errors, or completed information, in Chapter 5 (Transformation between the International Terrestrial Reference System and Geocentric Celestial Reference System), Chapter 6 (Geopotential), Chapter 7 (Displacements of reference points), Chapter 9 (Models for atmospheric propagation delays), and the Appendices.
- Provided the yearly update of the free core nutation model.

2. Conventions software

The most significant updates to the Conventions software were the modifications to HARDISP and DEHANTTIDEINEL to account for the 2012 insertion of the leap second.

3. Planned Changes

Discussions initiated to update the conventional geopotential model (Chapter 6), notably its time-varying part (low degree coefficients, seasonal variations). Associated topics such as conventional models for the geocenter motion in the ITRF and the IERS mean pole are also covered. Investigation into non-tidal displacement of reference markers continues and may lead to a new section for Chapter 7. In response to concerns regarding the quality of existing models for diurnal and semi-diurnal EOP variations in Chapter 8, efforts to identify improved models has begun. In addition to improvements in content, the IERS Conventions Center is considering the electronic content of the document, version control, and other ways to improve the quality and usability of the IERS Conventions.

3. Dissemination of information

The Conventions web pages at the BIPM (<<http://tai.bipm.org/iers/>>) and the USNO (<<http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conv2010/>>) were maintained.

Past updates to the IERS Conventions (2003), from 2004 until the release of the IERS Conventions (2010), were archived separately from the current updates, at <<http://tai.bipm.org/iers/conv2010/convupdt/convupdt.html>>.

A survey has been carried out to gather comments on the technical content of the Conventions (2010), the process of elaboration, as well as ideas for future evolution (<http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conv2010/Conventions_Survey.html>). A summary of the replies may be found at <http://tai.bipm.org/iers/conv2010/conv2010_surveyreplies.pdf>.

5. Conventions Center staff

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