1 Foreword

The IERS took significant steps in 2013 in order to organize its efforts for the next decade. In May, the IERS held a Retreat over two days that concentrated on seven topics. By reviewing the seven topics and generating recommendations to address new areas of opportunity, the IERS is positioning itself to meet the needs of its users for year to come. For additional information, see Chapter 4.2 of this report or <http://www.iers.org/Retreat2013>.

Efforts to develop the new ITRF continued. With the decisions regarding the modeling and the timelines finalized, the official Call for Participation was released by the ITRS Centre. Work on reviewing the ITRF submissions continue and the new ITRF is expected to be released in 2015.

The ICRS Centre continued to participate in the organization of the upcoming ICRF-3. It is expected that the 2015 International Astronomical Union (IAU) General Assembly (GA) will pass resolutions regarding the strategy for ICRF-3 so that the 2018 IAU GA can adopt the final ICRF-3.

Following the IERS Workshop on Local Surveys and Co-location in May, the leadership of the Working Group on Site Survey and Co-location was reorganized. Pierguido Sarti decided to step down as chair of the Working Group. His leadership for this often under-resourced area of study has provided improved ties between various geodetic observation techniques. His efforts are much appreciated and will be missed. Sten Bergstrand, the new chair of the Working Group, has stepped into the leadership role at an important time as the site ties will play a critical role in the development of the new ITRF.

Since the IERS was jointly established by the IAU and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), it is of interest that the IAU is reorganizing its commissions. The IERS stands ready to continue its long-standing relationship with the IAU and will engage the appropriate commissions once the reorganization has been adopted.

Several changes in personnel of the IERS Directing Board occurred during 2013. Jérôme Saunier replaced Bruno Garayt as the second IDS representative. Steven Fisher was named as the second IGS representative. Ralph Gaume replaced Jean Souchay as the ICRS Center representative and I replaced Gérard Petit as the Conventions representative as part of the regular rotation of responsibilities between the jointly shared centers.

Since 2001, Bernd Richter has been Director of the IERS Central Bureau. In 2013, Bernd resigned that position when he was selected for a new job with responsibilities outside of the Central Bureau. Daniela Thaller was subsequently chosen as the Director
of the Central Bureau. I want to thank Bernd for his many years of service to the IERS and wish Daniela well in her new position.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Chopo Ma for his eight-year tenure as Chair of the IERS Directing Board (2004–2012). During this time, the IERS achieved many significant milestones including adopting a new ITRF, new ICRF, and new Conventions. The IERS has benefited from his leadership and continues to build on his efforts.

Brian Luzum
Chair, IERS Directing Board, 2013