

3.2 Central Bureau

General activities

The IERS Central Bureau (CB), hosted and funded by Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG), organized and documented the IERS Directing Board (DB) Meetings No. 56, May 25, 2013, at University Paris-Diderot, Paris, France, and No. 57, December 8, 2013, at Westin Hotel, San Francisco, California, USA (see Section 3.1. for minutes of these meetings). It also co-organized together with IGN the IERS Retreat held on May 23–24, 2013, at University Paris-Diderot, Paris, France (see Section 4.2 for a report). Between the meetings the CB coordinated the work of the DB.

Members of the CB took part in the following meetings: European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2013, IERS Workshop on Local Surveys and Co-locations (see Section 4.1), IAG Scientific Assembly 2013, Journées 2013 “Systèmes de référence spatio-temporels”, ISO TC211 Meeting, 18th International Workshop on Laser Ranging, and AGU 2013 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 2013 the web site was continually updated, several new pages and documents were added. An extended list of meetings related to the work of the IERS was maintained and updated frequently. The CB maintains also the web pages of the IERS working groups and added some new documents to these pages. A web page for the new ITRS Combination Centre at Jet Propulsion Laboratory was created.

IERS Technical Note No. 37 “Analysis and results of ITRF2008” was printed and distributed.

The CB finalized the IERS Annual Reports 2010 and 2011 and published them online in March and October 2013, respectively. 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 2011 to 2013 was compiled for IAG in cooperation with members of the DB.

During the year 2013, 21 IERS Messages (Nos. 222–242) were edited and distributed. They include news from the IERS and of general type as well as announcements of conferences.

Address and subscription information have regularly been updated in the IERS user database. There were about 2500 users in 2013 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 continued 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.

The Director of the CB, Daniela Thaller, chairs the IERS Working Group on SINEX Format and is an ex officio member of the other working groups. Michael Lösler was active in the IERS Working Group on Site Survey and Co-location. Wolfgang Dick continued to work in the Control Body for an ISO Geodetic Register Network, which will contain standardized and proved data on reference systems, and as a member of the ISO project 19161 “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. Besides routine work like maintenance of the data bases of users, products and web pages, in 2013 further developments of the IERS DIS concentrated on the new data management system. This system automatically retrieves all IERS products from different servers, checks them, extracts metadata, creates files in different formats (including XML), creates plots of Earth orientation series, and finally stores and displays the data files together with metadata and plots at the IERS web servers. This large software package, which was developed during 2012 by a software company in cooperation with the CB (see previous reports), started operation in May 2013, after an extended test phase had been finished successfully. Some software bugs were fixed throughout the year so that the system could run more stable. A separate new system for address management was developed (see above) and will be tested in 2014.

Staff in 2013

Dr. Bernd Richter, *Director (until 31 March 2013)*

Dr. Daniela Thaller, *Director (since 1 April 2013)*

Sabine Bachmann, *scientist*

Dr. Wolfgang R. Dick, *scientist*

Sonja Geist, *technician*

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Carola Steinke, née Helbig, *secretary (on leave since March 2013)*

Michael Lösler, *technician (until 30 June 2013)*

Sandra Schneider-Leck, *technician*

Publications

Lösler, Michael; Haas, Rüdiger; Eschelbach, Cornelia (2013): Automated and continual determination of radio telescope reference points with sub-mm accuracy: results from a campaign at the Onsala Space Observatory. *J. Geodesy*, 87(8), 791–804, doi: 10.1007/s00190-013-0647-y.

Thaller, Daniela; Bachmann, Sabine (2014): The IERS Retreat: How to improve Earth Rotation products? In: Proceedings of the Journées 2013 “Systèmes de Référence Spatio-Temporels”, N. Capitaine (ed.), Observatoire de Paris, ISBN 978-2-901057-69-7, pp. 175–180.

Wolfgang R. Dick, Daniela Thaller