

## 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, interim versions are 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.

In 2014, the operation of the Conventions Center has been reorganized with the creation of an Editorial Board with roughly twelve members, where each member typically has responsibility for one chapter of the IERS Conventions, providing editorial support to the Center. Independently, the former “Advisory Board for the IERS Conventions updates” chaired by Jim Ray since 2005 has been discontinued. Planned updates to the Conventions are distributed for comments through the Directing Board and the Technique Service coordinators.

Over 2014, the work accomplished or in progress includes the following:

### 1. Technical content of the IERS Conventions

Work started on the updates to the IERS Conventions (2010) soon after the publication of this new reference edition. Note that the published IERS Conventions (2010) is available in electronic form (<http://tai.bipm.org/iers/conv2010/>) and as IERS Technical Note 36 (<http://www.iers.org/TN36>). The list below summarizes the updates made in 2014. See <http://tai.bipm.org/iers/convupdt/convupdt.html> (or the site at <http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conv2010/convupdt.html>) for details.

- Provided draft revision to implement new conventional mean pole coordinates for Chapter 7 (Displacements of reference points).
- Provided draft revision to Chapter 9 (Models for atmospheric propagation delays) to improve access to data and to modify the section on ionospheric effects.

### 2. Conventions software

The FCNNUT program was updated for the latest free core nutation values.

### 3. Planned Changes

A study group was established to review compatibility of models for VLBI and SLR in an effort to reduce the discrepancy in scale observed by the two techniques. Discussions continued regarding the update of 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 were 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 continued. 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.

#### **4. 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>>.

#### **5. Conventions Center staff**

Felicitas Arias (BIPM)  
Merri Sue Carter (USNO, until March 2015)  
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