3.7 IERS Working Groups
3.7.1 Working Group on Site Survey and Co-location

Following the 2013 workshop in Paris, the focus of the working group has shifted slightly. At the workshop it was evident that there are several interpretations and implementations of common terms both in and between the space geodetic techniques. An important conclusion from the workshop was therefore that in order to merge the results from different techniques in an efficient way, the terminology used for site surveying needs to be consistent both within and between the techniques. The original working group thus appears to now have grown to a size where more formal measures are needed in order to avoid confusion been the participants. Considering the importance of site surveying in order to produce an ITRF on the observational level, the terminology is therefore the first issue to address for the group. Consequently, a core of designated points of contact (POC) has been established with each of the IERS Technique Centres (TCs). The role of these POCs is foremost to make sure that each TC is represented and speaks with one voice, and that questions can be directed with some accountability. The group will thus continue to be open to in- and output from other participants than the POCs.

Additionally, the working group is also part of the GGOS structure under its IERS name.

Projects, WG meetings

A terrestrial (i.e. robotic total station) monitoring system adapted to the telescope's observation schedule was successfully operated by the Frankfurt surveying team at the Onsala Space Observatory during the full two weeks of IVS CONT14.

An open working group meeting was held in conjunction with the REFAG2014 conference in Luxembourg. The working group background was presented, as well as the new group structure. The need for a common terminology and understanding of definitions between users was further accentuated. A rework of the resolution proposal on Local Ties from the 2013 workshop in Paris was also initiated.

Working group points of contact

The spirit of being an open working group is still kept, but in order to maintain accountability and make sure to have a response from all services, the following representatives have been designated as point of contacts for the respective TC.

- IDS – Jerome Saunier, IGN, France
- IGS – Ralf Schmid, TUM, Germany
- ILRS – Erricos C. Pavlis, UMBC, USA
- IVS – Rüdiger Haas, Chalmers, Sweden

- NASA SGP – Jim Long, NASA, USA

Additionally, surveying teams at IGN (FRA), GA Australia (AUS), NLS (FIN), Uni Bonn (GER), FRA-UAS (GER), SP (SWE), USGS (USA) have been identified. The need to establish cooperation with other nationalities (e.g. Chinese, Japanese and Russian) is considered an important future task.

Work ahead

With the POCs appointed, the next step is to establish a common terminology that is acceptable for all IAG Services. An outreach to surveying teams in e.g. China, Japan and Russia is also anticipated, as well as initiating a surveying plan based on the results from ITRF2013. An inventory of current surveying statuses at different sites would also be beneficiary.

References of publications relevant to the WG

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ILRS:

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IDS:

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