

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.

Over 2015, 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. The list below summarizes the updates made in 2015. See <http://tai.bipm.org/iers/convupdt/convupdt.html> (or the site at <http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conv2010/convupdt.html>) for details.

- Revision to adopt the new conventional mean pole coordinates for Chapter 7 (Displacements of reference points) was implemented. In addition, typos in the paragraph following Table 7.1 and in Section 7.1.5 were corrected.

2. Conventions software

The most significant update was the addition of the routine IERS_CMP_2015 that provides the IERS Conventional Mean Pole. The routines HARDISP, ETUTC, DAT, and DEHANTTIDEINEL were updated to account for the leap second of 30 June 2015. The subroutine TDFRPH was corrected for a typo and the test case was updated in the TDFRPH.F subroutine. The test run of the ocean pole tide model had missing information provided so that the complete inputs are defined. Finally, routine CAL2JD was updated from the eleventh release of the SOFA package.

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

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