

3.5.3 Conventions Centre

Introduction The Conventions Centre is operated jointly by L'Observatoire de Paris (OP) and the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO). After years of dedicated service as a co-chair to the IERS Convention Centre, Dr. Gérard Petit of the BIPM has stepped down effective 23 June 2016. Moving forward, the US Naval Observatory has partnered with the Paris Observatory to share in the responsibilities of co-chairing the IERS Conventions Centre.

The Conventions Centre provides updated versions of the IERS Conventions in electronic form, after approval of the IERS Directing Board (DB). 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 2016, the work accomplished or in progress includes the following:

Technical Content of the IERS Conventions

New IERS Conventions web and ftp sites were created in 2016 and are located at: a) <http://iers-conventions.obspm.fr/>, b) <http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conventions/>, and c) <ftp://maia.usno.navy.mil/conventions>. The published IERS Conventions (2010), IERS Technical Note 36, is available in electronic form at these URLs and at <https://www.iers.org/IERS/EN/Publications/TechnicalNotes/TechnicalNotes.html>. Work started on the updates to the IERS Conventions (2010) soon after the publication of this new reference edition, and the electronic versions of the IERS Conventions (2010) update can be found at: can be found at the following sites: <http://iers-conventions.obspm.fr/updates/2010updatesinfo.php> and <http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conventions/updates/2010updatesinfo.php>.

Conventions Software

The following routines from Chapter 7, listed in the table on the next page, were updated to account for the leap second on 31 December 2016.

An updated CAL2JD.F, a subroutine of DEHANTTIDEINEL.F, was added from the 12th release of the SOFA package. Just as had been done in 2015, it was planned that IERS_CMP_YYYY would be updated for YYYY equal to 2016. However, due to expected changes in the definition of the mean pole that were to be proposed at the Unified Analysis Workshop (UAW), Paris France, July 8–10, 2016, the routine IERS_CMP_2016 was not published.

Function Name	Description
ETUTC.F	Difference between Ephemeris Time ET and Coordinated Universal Time UTC.
DAT.F	TAI–UTC at a given UTC date calculate.
DEHANTTIDEINEL.F	Computation of station tidal displacement.
HARDDISP.F	Reading time series of tidal displacements in the BLQ format.
CAL2JD.F	Gregorian Calendar to Julian Date.

Planned Changes Planned activities listed in the analogous section of 2015 IERS Annual Report were continued though 2016. Addressing customer feedback and comments with regards to the complexity and requirements of the Conventions remains an important consideration for the IERS Conventions co-chairs and associated staffs. Various discussions on how to address these concerns have taken place, and an update on these discussions was provided to the IERS DB just prior to the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall meeting, 2016.

Dissemination of Information The Conventions web pages at OP <http://iers-conventions.obspm.fr/> and USNO <http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conventions/> were maintained and improved. The IERS Conventions Centre would like to acknowledge the work of Maria Davis from USNO and Teddy Carlucci from OP for their work on the updated IERS web and ftp sites.

Conventions Center Staff Christian Bizouard (OP), co-director since 1 September 2016 (and current representative to the IERS Directing Board)
 Nick Stamatakos (USNO), co-director since 1 January 2016
 Sébastien Lambert (OP)
 Maria Davis (USNO)
 Dennis McCarthy (USNO, retired)

Nick Stamatakos, Christian Bizouard