

# 1 Foreword

You are opening the IERS Annual Report for the year 2001, the first one worked out by the 'new' IERS after its recent reorganization. Its contents therefore reflects, quite naturally, all changes introduced under the new structure of the Service. The changes concern mainly Section 3 Reports of IERS components:

- There is a new part (Section 3.3) covering the activities of the Analysis Coordinator;
- The parts devoted to the Technique Centres (Section 3.4) are limited to enlarged abstracts only, because these activities are expected to be more widely discussed by these components (that are now independent International Services) themselves, in their own Annual Reports;
- Similar holds for the Product Centres (Section 3.5), some of which also intending to publish their full reports separately;
- The Combination Centres, both for the ITRS and those doing the research, are the new components whose reports can be found in Section 3.6.

It is necessary to mention that the new structure of the IERS and its products are not 'frozen' forever, they are subject to constant re-discussion to reflect both the progress of the research made within the major scientific communities interested in the Service (i.e., in astronomy, geodesy and geophysics) and the needs of the users. The main ground for these discussions are the IERS Workshops that are organized irregularly, whenever the need to hold them appears. Thus the flexibility and further evolution of the Service is assured for the future.

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(Chairman, IERS Directing Board)