

3.2 Central Bureau

The Central Bureau (CB) at Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) in Frankfurt am Main began its work. The transition of the duties from the former CB at Observatoire de Paris was mainly finished at the end of 2000, and on 1 January 2001 the new CB started officially.

One of the first tasks was the establishment of the web site <www.iers.org>, which went online on 1 January 2001. Texts from the former IERS web site at Paris were used, reformatted and partially updated. A number of new documents were created. The web pages give information on the structure of the IERS, its products and publications and provides contact addresses as well as general facts on Earth rotation studies. Also a large link list for IERS, Earth rotation in general and related fields was added. Throughout 2001 the web site was regularly enlarged and updated.

The CB organized and documented two IERS Directing Board (DB) meetings: No. 33, March 26, 2001, Congress Centre, Nice, France; No. 34, September 26, 2001, Royal Observatory of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium. Between these meetings the CB coordinated the work of the DB.

The CB presented the new structure and the activities of IERS at the EGS 2001 in Nice and at the IAG 2001 Scientific Assembly in Budapest. There also a first meeting of the Combination Research Centres was organized on September 7, 2001.

During the year 2001, 20 IERS Messages were edited and distributed by the CB. These replaced the former IERS Gazettes and serve for short or urgent information for the IERS users. They contain news from the IERS and from related services as well as announcements of conferences.

The CB edited and published an online version of the IERS Annual Report 2000. Besides the reports of the IERS components, it contains information on the IERS compiled by the CB.

From the former CB and the Rapid Service/Prediction Centre the CB received four mailing lists with regular and electronic addresses of about 2500 IERS users. These lists were merged and formed the basis for an IERS address database. Several inconsistencies between the different mailing lists, outdated addresses and users with different addresses could be identified. During the year, a considerable number of new users were added. Address and subscription information has regularly been updated.

To support the IERS data base project a proposal was launched in the framework of the "Geotechnologien-Programm" initiated by the German Ministry of Education and Sciences. After successful reviews a scientific position has been granted for 3 years.

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