

1 Foreword

The IERS Annual Report for 2002 roughly follows the same scheme as that for 2001 – the parts devoted to the Technique and Product Centres are relatively short since it is assumed that they produce their own, more detailed, reports. The changes therefore reflect only minor changes in the organisational structure of the IERS that took place since 2001:

- There is a new part describing the activity of the newly created GGFC Special Bureau for Loading (Section 3.5.6.8);
- In addition to existing German and French ITRS Combination Centres, there is a new one in Canada (Section 3.6.1.2).

The life of the IERS in 2002 was much affected by an exceptionally high number of IERS Workshops. There were two of them: one in April in Paris (devoted to the implementation of the new IAU resolutions), and one in November in Munich (devoted to combinations and geophysical fluids). The immediate impact of the first one on IERS products as published since the beginning of 2003 (new precession-nutation model and new transformation between the celestial and terrestrial reference frames) is evident, the impact of the second one will hopefully appear on a long run, and will be reflected in an improved consistency of the products. The detailed results of these Workshops are published separately, in IERS Technical Notes No. 29 and 30.

The attentive reader might notice, on the cover of this report and elsewhere, that the traditional abbreviation IERS now stands for somewhat changed name of the Service – International Earth rotation and Reference systems Service. It is the consequence of the decision of the IERS Directing Board, taken at its meeting in Paris Observatory on April 2, 2003, to reflect better the real activities and products of the Service.

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