

1 Foreword

The IERS Annual Report for 2007 shows the difficult balance between continuity and change that is necessary for the IERS to continue to meet its responsibilities. The EOP data embodied in the IERS now goes back more than a century but to make such data accessible in the current network-connected world requires further machine-readable metadata, as is being done by the IERS Central Bureau for all IERS products. A careful description of models given in the IERS Conventions is essential for proper analysis and interpretation but models must be continually refined and extended to encourage and to use better observations from the Technique Centers. The IERS Workshop on Conventions provided a forum and direction on how to move forward. The Earth Orientation Centre developed a strategy for maintaining consistency of EOP 05 C4 and ITRF 2005 while the Rapid Service / Prediction Centre updated the system of Bulletin A to be consistent with EOP 05 C04. Having released ITRF 2005 the ITRS Centre provided users access through its web site while the ICRS Centre along with the IERS/IVS Working Group for the Second Realization of the ICRF began analysis expected to culminate in the adoption of a new ICRF by the IAU in 2009.

The Technique Centers all worked at improving their operations and analysis. Significant events included a transition of Analysis Coordinator and the beginning of uniform reprocessing by the IGS, the start of “daily” EOP products by the ILRS, the first test fringes with the VLBI 2010 system by the IVS, and a 40% improvement in data latency in the IDS.

In the broader perspective the activities of the IERS in 2007 should be seen as prelude and preparation for major efforts toward updating the ITRF and ICRF leading eventually to greater integration of analysis of IERS products. This goal demands considerably more work on consistent modeling, parameterization, and combination.

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