

3.7.5 IERS/IVS Working Group for the Second Realization of the ICRF

Introduction The IERS/IVS Working Group was established after the 2006 IAU General Assembly to make use of the significant improvements in data and analysis since the ICRF became the fundamental frame for all astrometry at the beginning of 1988. The goal was to produce a second realization of the ICRF for IERS/IVS consideration and for submission to the IAU Working Group charged with providing oversight on behalf of the general astronomical community.

Working Group Charter The purpose of the working group is to generate the second realization of the ICRF from VLBI observations of extragalactic radio sources, consistent with the current realization of the ITRF and EOP data products. The working group will apply state-of-the-art astronomical and geophysical models in the analysis of the entire relevant S/X astrometric and geodetic VLBI data set. The working group will carefully consider the selection of defining sources and the mitigation of source position variations to improve the stability of the ICRF. The goal is to present the second ICRF to relevant authoritative bodies, e.g. IERS and IVS, and submit the revised ICRF to the IAU Division I working group on the second realization of the ICRF for adoption at the 2009 IAU general assembly.

Members

Members	O. Titov, Australia	Z. Malkin, Russia
	R. Heinkelmann, Austria	E. Skurikhina, Russia
	G. Wang, China	J. Sokolova, Russia
	F. Arias, France	V. Zharov, Russia
	P. Charlot, France	S. Bolotin, Ukraine
	A.-M. Gontier, France	D. Boboltz, USA
	S. Lambert, France	A. Fey, USA
	J. Souchay, France	R. Gaume, USA
	G. Engelhardt, Germany	C. Jacobs, USA
	A. Nothnagel, Germany	C. Ma, USA
	V. Tesmer, Germany	L. Petrov, USA
	G. Bianco, Italy	O. Sovers, USA
	S. Kurdubov, Russia	

Meetings The Working Group held the following meetings:

2008 March 5; St. Petersburg, Russia
2008 September 25-26; Dresden, Germany
2008 December 4-5; Washington DC, USA
2009 March 27-28; Bordeaux, France

Preparation for the XXVII IAU General Assembly

After the Bordeaux meeting the Working Group organized the work of the members into IERS Technical 35. Additional contributions were provided by C. Barache, S. Böckmann, A. Collioud, J.M. Gipson, D. Gordon, S.O. Lytvyn, D.S. MacMillan, and R. Ojha. A.L. Fey and D. Gordon acted as editors. The IERS Central Bureau published the online version for consideration by the IVS, IERS and the IAU Working Group, each of which approved the work in a timely manner. At the IAU General Assembly members of the Working Group presented the ICRF2 to Division 1, Commission 8 and Commission 19 and participated in drafting Resolution B3 on the Second Realization of the International Celestial Reference Frame. This resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on Aug. 13, 2009 with an effective date of 1 January 2010.

Preparation of IERS Technical Note 35

After the formal adoption of the ICRF2 the Working Group collaborated with the IERS Central Bureau to prepare the Technical Note for publication in hard copy. Additional editorial review was provided by C.S. Jacobs before the final text was sent to the printer.

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