3.7.3 Working Group on SINEX Format

The IERS Working Group (WG) on SINEX Format was established in early 2011. The Charter of the Working Group is available on the website dedicated to the working group and maintained at the IERS Central Bureau: <http://www.iers.org/WGSINEX>. Information related to the working group's activities are available there as well, such as agenda and minutes of the meetings held so far.

During the year 2014 there was no special meeting of the working group. All discussions on possible format revisions and additions have been done via email communication.

The latest version of the SINEX format is v 2.02. A full format description is available at: <http://www.iers.org/IERS/EN/Organization/AnalysisCoordinator/SinexFormat/sinex.html>.

The SINEX format is used by all four space-geodetic techniques to provide their products. To ensure that all technique-specific needs are covered by the SINEX format, representatives from each Technique Centre are members of the SINEX Working Group. Additionally, representatives of the IERS ITRS Combination Centres, the IERS Working Group on Site Survey and Co-location, the IERS Conventions Centre, and the IERS Central Bureau are involved in the working group. The IERS Analysis Coordinator is an ex-officio member of the working group in order to cover the needs of the combined IERS products.

The major part of the requested format updates is related to the new method of generating the ITRF, i.e., the handling of non-linear station motions together with the parameterization of the post-seismic behaviour of stations: Periodic signals (especially annual and semi-annual signals), exponential and logarithmic functions will be estimated together with linear velocities. As all these functions together represent the ITRF, the relevant parameters need to be stored in the SINEX file.

Please refer to the IERS Annual Report 2013 for more details.

The next release of an ITRF has been extended from ITRF2013 to become ITRF2014 (see the summary of the IERS DB Meeting No. 59 in this volume, section "Report from ITRS Centre"). Due to this extension, the activities for updating the SINEX format with the new parameterizations could not be finished in 2014. IGN (Institut National de l'Information Géographique et Forestière) as the IERS product centre for the terrestrial reference frame (ITRS Centre) continued to work on the new parameterization in SINEX.

Daniela Thaller (on behalf of the WG)