1 Foreword

Analysis of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame 2014 (ITRF2014) continued through 2016 culminating in the adoption of the of the new reference frame in early 2017. Ongoing documentation of the ITRF2014 resulted in the release of the Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth paper in 2016 and the first of the IERS Technical Notes being released in early 2017. The last major piece of ITRF2014 documentation will be an additional IERS Technical Note providing further analysis of and comparison with the new terrestrial reference frame. It is expected that this Technical Note will be published later in 2017.

For the second year in a row, the IERS announced and implemented a leap second. This time the leap second was the last second of the year on 31 December 2016. Software in the IERS Conventions was changed to account for this additional leap second.

The symposium “Geodesy, Astronomy, and Geophysics in Earth Rotation (GAGER2016)”, cosponsored by the International Astronomical Union (IAU), International Association of Geodesy (IAG), and the IERS, was held 18–23 July 2016 in Wuhan, China. It is expected that the contributions to the symposium will be submitted to a special issue of the Journal of Geodynamics.

The first data release (DR1) from the European Space Agency’s Gaia mission was released in September 2016. This new source of celestial reference frame information will prove revolutionary to the scientific community and we commend the Gaia team for their excellent work.

The Working Group (WG) on Combination at the Observation Level, which began its work in 2009, concluded its efforts in 2016. We thank the WG Chair Richard Biancale and all of the WG members for their efforts in support of this important area of research.

The Bureau des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) phased out their support of the IERS Conventions Center in 2016. In response, the Observatoire de Paris joined with the U.S. Naval Observatory in co-directing the IERS Conventions Center. As a result, Christian Bizouard will now be co-director of the Conventions Center with Nick Stamatakos. In addition, Jean Souchay replaced Bryan Dorland as the IERS Directing Board (DB) member from the ICRS Center as part of the rotating co-directorship.

The IERS DB named Detlef Angermann as the IERS representative to the IAG Commission 1 Steering Committee and Richard Gross as the IERS representative to the IGS Governing Board.

Brian Luzum