

1 Foreword

In 2018, the IERS continued to ensure that the user community has the most up-to-date terrestrial reference frame by beginning preparations for the generation of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame 2020 (ITRF2020). Plans are now in place for this latest TRF with reprocessing beginning in 2020. To provide closure on the ITRF2014, an additional IERS Technical Note is scheduled to be published in 2019.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) Division A Working Group on the Third Realization of the International Celestial Reference Frame (ICRF3) finalized their work which was subsequently adopted at the IAU General Assembly in Vienna, Austria in 2018. This effort benefitted from collaboration with the IERS ICRS Center. The IERS extends our thanks to all involved in creating this next generation of celestial reference frame, which will be beneficial to so many in the community.

To correct a known deficiency in the processing of the IERS Earth Orientation Center's (EOC's) 14 C04 series, a revision to the series was released on 16 April 2018. The new series was announced in IERS Message 354.

The IERS Conventions Center continued to make incremental changes to the published IERS Conventions to ensure that the document contains the latest models and constants. In 2018, changes to the Conventions include the adoption of a new secular pole and the elimination of the previous conventional mean pole. The changes necessitated revisions to Chapters 6, 7, and the Glossary. For the latest information on the IERS Conventions, please see the IERS Conventions web sites.

Preparations are underway for the upcoming 2019 Unified Analysis Workshop (UAW), which will be held in Paris. The UAW is a joint meeting co-sponsored by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), and the IERS. It is expected that the UAW will generate recommendations that, when adopted by the geodetic community, will improve the consistency and the quality of the geodetic products that so many users have come to rely on.

The IERS Directing Board (DB) had several changes during the year. Jürgen Müller acted as the IERS representative to the IERS, temporarily replacing Ludwig Combrinck, until Jean-Marie Torre could be identified as the permanent replacement. Nick Stamatakis replaced Christian Bizouard on 1 January 2019 as the IERS Directing Board (DB) member from the IERS Convention Center as part of the rotating co-directorship. Robert Heinkelmann replaced Tom Herring as the IERS Analysis Coordinator on 1 January 2019. Tom's role as the Analysis Coordinator is arguably the most important role in the IERS for ensuring the quality and consistency of the IERS products. Tom always strived to

make the IERS products the best they could be and worked so that the IERS would not only meet current requirements, but be positioned to meet future requirements as well. We thank all of the representatives and we wish the best to both Ludwig and Tom in their future endeavors.

Brian Luzum
Chair, IERS Directing Board, 2018