

1 Foreword

Throughout 2019, the IERS focused on our preparations for the International Terrestrial Reference Frame 2020 (ITRF2020). Communications with the Technique Centers has been excellent and while there is still significant work to be done throughout 2020, there are no known obstacles to completing either the inputs to the new TRF nor the combination itself. Finishing out the ITRF2014, IERS Technical Note 40 "Description and evaluation of DTRF2014, JTRF2014 and ITRF2014" was published in early 2020.

The 2019 Unified Analysis Workshop (UAW) was held on 2 – 4 October 2019 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. The final report provides a thorough summary of the workshop as well as conclusions and recommendations from the discussions.

The IERS Conventions Center provides the standard constants and models to be used to ensure consistent IERS data sets. In 2019, Chapter 4 was re-written to be consistent with ITRF2014. It was also decided to create a new printed version of the Conventions in 2022. This version will incorporate a new style so that the main document is greatly reduced in length, which will hopefully improve the usability of the conventions for the general practitioner. For the latest information on the IERS Conventions, please see the IERS Conventions web sites.

The IERS Rapid Service/Predict Center (RS/PC) and the USNO component of the IERS Conventions web and ftp sites were taken offline as they undergo modernization. These services are estimated to be returned to service no earlier than autumn of 2020. To mitigate the loss of these sites, the RS/PC and Conventions Center have found alternate sites to host this information.

The IERS Directing Board (DB) continued to evolve in 2019. Nick Stamatakos 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. Sigrid Böhm replaced Guangli Wang as the International VLBI Service (IVS) representative. Tom Herring replaced Axel Nothnagel as the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)/International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) Representative. Robert Heinkelmann replaced Tom Herring as the IERS Analysis Coordinator on 1 January 2019. As always, we thank all of the representatives and we wish them the best in their future endeavors. As a volunteer organization, we are dependent on the efforts of all of our participants.

*Brian Luzum
Chair, IERS Directing Board, 2019*