

IERS WG: „2nd EOP Prediction Comparison Campaign”

1st Online Meeting, May 6th, 2021 (18:00 – 20:00 CEST)

Participants: Sigrid Boehm, Robert Dill, Henryk Dobslaw, Jose Manuel Ferrandiz, Tomasz Kur, Sadegh Modiri, Dennis McCarthy, Jolanta Nastula, Aleksander Partyka, Erricos Pavlis, David Salstein, Erik Schoenemann, Harald Schuh, Danuta Sleszynska, Justyna Sliwinska, Benedikt Soja, Nick Stamatakos, Shrishail Subhash Raut, Daniela Thaller

(1) Jolanta Nastula: Welcome

(2) Justyna Sliwinska: Outline of 2nd EOPPCC and the IERS Working Group

(3) Aleksander Partyka : Website and Participant registration

(4) Tomasz Kur: Data Format and Submission Server

(4) Justyna Sliwinska: Scientific Assessment of the Predictions

(5) Henryk Dobslaw: Proposed Schedule

(6) All: Questions & Recommendations

- Harald Schuh: A combined solution (i.e., unweighted or weighted mean of all submissions) should be routinely evaluated as well.
- Jose Manuel Ferrandiz: Consistency of EOP series is important, do not only use C04 for evaluation, but also single-technique solutions from IVS and IGS. -> Will be done by the office in particular within the final evaluation.
- Daniela Thaller: Use more than one final EOP solution for the routine evaluation. -> The office will look for other potential candidates (i.e. SPACE2021, upcoming ESA series).
- Daniela Thaller: Are there any specifications on the rapid EOP to be used in the predictions? -> No, it is up to the participants to obtain rapidly processed geodetic data to start their predictions from.
- Sadegh Modiri: Methods are usually trained against a certain reference series, is this somehow prescribed by the campaign? -> EOP 14 C04 will be used in the beginning, but other final series referring to ITRF2014 might be considered as well. Evaluation results thus might change during the course of the campaign.
- Benedict Soja: Will there be common database of geodetic products that should be used by all participants? -> No, obtaining rapidly processed geodetic data is part of the competition.
- Nick Stamatakos: Is there a clear definition of day zero? -> Day zero is considered to be the epoch at 0 UTC of the day of the submission. Day one is considered to be the epoch at 0 UTC of the following day. Since all

submissions are required at 20 UTC (sharp), there are 20 hours of time available to collect data, perform all calculations, and upload the submission. It would be allowed to use GNSS real-time data recorded during day zero even after 0h UTC if that would help. In the prediction file, however, only the values for day zero at 0h UTC should be listed (daily sampling).

- Jose Manuel Ferrandiz: Are the reference frames to be fixed? -> ITRF2014 should be used, but we do not impose strict requirements.
- Dennis McCarthy: What is the need degree of compliance with the IERS conventions? -> It would be okay to deviate from the conventions, but such deviations should be disclosed in order to discriminate between effects from the method and the effects of modifications to the conventions.
- Erricos Pavlis: Individual submissions could be also tested by ILRS analysis centers in SLR processing. -> The office will make sure that all individual submissions are preserved for such analyses in a post-processing mode.
- Daniela Thaller: Individual submissions could be also tested in terms of GNSS orbit overlaps. -> The office will make sure that all individual submissions are preserved for such analyses in a post-processing mode.
- Benedikt Soja: Will there be an opportunity for participants to publish codes of their methods? -> Not planned by the office, but Benedikt Soja is invited to create a publication opportunity. This could be advertised on the website of the campaign.