



INTERNATIONAL EARTH ROTATION SERVICE (IERS)
SERVICE INTERNATIONAL DE LA ROTATION TERRESTRE
WWW: <http://hpiers.obspm.fr>

REPORT ON THE IERS DIRECTING BOARD MEETING No 24

**Sunday 19 April 1998, 14:30 - 19:00
at Nice, Hotel Quality
in conjunction with the 1998 EGS meeting**

Attendance: Extended IERS Directing Board:
C. Reigber (Chairman), D. Gambis, B. Kolaczek, B. Chao, C. Ma, B. Melbourne, P. Shelus
D. McCarthy, F. Arias

Invitee: H. Drewes (ISGN), J. Degnan (ILRS), M. Pearlman (ILRS), N. Vandenberg (GAIVN)

1- Actions since last meeting (December 1997)

- Joint CSTG/IERS Call for participation in SLR and LLR

The IERS gazette # 28 concerning this call was sent out in February. Deadline for submission was March 31, 1998. The individual proposals collected were presented by John Degnan at the present board meeting (see section 4.4 for John's presentation).

- Description of MGGF organisation

The MGGF section began operations January 1, 1998. The Web site is being installed and can now be reached through the IERS web site. Ben Chao presented the MGGF organisation (see section 3-1).

- Visit of Chris Reigber to the French institutions

On March 18, C. Reigber visited Paris to consult the representatives of French institutions supporting the IERS: the President of Paris Observatory (M. Combes), IGN, the French National Council of the Central Bureau of IERS (F. Barlier) and the Director of the GRGS (G. Balmino). He received clear indications from all institutions that they will continue to support strongly the Central Bureau activities.

- The IERS flyer

The flyer has recently been delivered. A few copies were distributed at the meeting place. Each Directing Board member will receive 50 copies by mail for internal distribution.

- Analysis campaign for EOP analysis from defined TRF(/CRF) frames

After consultation with D. Gambis and Z. Altamimi, the text of Chopo Ma has been sent to the Analysis Centers of the various techniques. So far, only a couple of responses have been received.

- Prepare 1998 IERS Workshop

The announcement of the Workshop was made on April 8th via the IERS gazette # 29. A flyer was widely distributed. More details on the 1998 IERS workshop are available from the GFZ World Wide Web Site at <http://www.gfz-potsdam.de/iers/>

- GLONASS IGEX campaign

An International Call for Participation (GLONASS IGEX-98 campaign) has been done via IERS Gazette # 28.

The International GLONASS EXperiment (IGEX) is an international campaign sponsored by:

- the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) Commission VIII, International Coordination of Space Techniques for Geodesy and Geodynamics (CSTG),
- the International GPS Service for Geodynamics (IGS),
- The Institute of Navigation (ION), and
- The International Earth Rotation Service (IERS).

- Revised list of IERS Corresponding Members

This revision has been recently initiated by D. Gambis.

2-STATUS ON CURRENT WORK

2-1 1997 IERS Annual Report

D. Gambis reported on the status of the 1997 Annual Report. For him, this report has to change according to the evolution of the IERS activity. The ICRF has been adopted as the conventional reference frame from January 1, 1998. The IERS has been charged by the IAU for its maintenance which will be shared by the VLBI coordinating center and the Celestial section of the Central Bureau. Discussions are developing between these two groups to share these tasks (see 3-2). Another concern is the yearly rhythm for the EOP analysis. Several analysis centers do not feel this computation is necessary. Other centers take this annual opportunity to recompute data with improved strategies. For the centers which only participate in the Annual Report, the contribution is also a way to get the recognition of their governments and institutes. In this respect, the 1997 Annual Report will be made as the continuation of the previous issues. The Directing Board requested that the 1997 Annual Report be available for the next IERS workshop.

2-2 EOP/TRF analysis campaign

As it has been said, the text of Chopo Ma was delivered to the Analysis Centers of the various techniques for discussion. So far, only a couple of responses have been received. More answers are needed.

2-3 IERS Conventions

Dennis McCarthy presented the current status of the Conventions 2000. The list of editorial Board members and contributors have been completed and the Conventions Policy has been sent out. The table of contents is open for discussion. Bill Melbourne asked about the opportunity to add standards linked to the MGGF activity (troposphere model, etc). According to various members, this issue is premature; what needs to be conventional in MGGF is not solved. Ben Chao invites people to give suggestions. Barbara Kolaczek raised the problem of adopting theoretical values for Chandler and the free-core nutation. Mike Pearlman asked about including geopotential deformations. Another question raised the opportunity to include conceptual aspects of the terrestrial frame realization.

New developments will be presented at the new DB meeting in Potsdam. Everybody agreed on the importance of the IERS Conventions as a product of IERS.

3 - Organization of IERS activities

3-1 Monitoring Global Geophysical Fluids

Ben Chao presented the organisation of the MGGF with the responsibilities of the special sections. Since this activity is an international cooperation, Chris Reigber suggested removing from the list the institutes names. It also seems necessary to gather more international experts for active contributions. A scientific committee is planned to be set up for each special section. The necessity of long-term support from the host organisations was also stressed. Daniel Gambis wondered about the requirement of internal meetings. He also raised the problem of having only one representative in the DB. Bill Melbourne argued that depending on the DB agenda, activities responsible could be invited.

3-2 Maintenance of the ICRF: share of tasks

As it was already stated, the task of the ICRF maintenance including the reference frames tie has been given to the IERS. Two proposals of the VLBI coordinating center and the celestial system section of the Central Bureau (CSS) have been merged. Chris Reigber strongly insisted that the distribution of information about ICRF and its maintenance should be done only under the label of IERS; the VLBI coordinating center and the Celestial System section of IERS/CB jointly will organize the IERS ICRF Web site. The Board members agreed on this point. All information concerning updates or inclusion of new sources with ICRS coordinates will be published in the IERS Annual Report.

The DB members agreed on the necessity of having one single labelled IERS product to avoid confusion although any group could develop analyses. The different aspects of the proposal were discussed. The CSS contribution to the ICRF maintenance will follow the direction of the work previously developed by the section: comparison of radio-sources catalogues, transformation of new radio-sources coordinates and of future realisation of ICRF to ICRS, monitoring of the link of ICRS to catalogues at other wavelengths, production of structure indices.

The DB agreed that the coordinates of sources not included as defining sources in the ICRF will be determined by the VLBI Coordinating Center. The Celestial System Section of the IERS Central Bureau may rotate these coordinates if required to make them consistent with the ICRS.

The completion of the proposal is under discussion between the two groups.

4 - IERS external cooperations

4-1 Current status of ISGN

Hermann Drewes presented the present status of the ISGN. A lack of stations with a long and good metrological history (position, velocities) is dramatically needed. A joint call for participation will be made by CSTG/IERS.

The organization of ISGN has to be made. Working groups have to be organized.

The procedure to select the proposals has to be defined. People have to remember that the driving body is the CSTG.

4-2 Implications for IERS of the IGS retreat

Bill Melbourne discussed how the IGS retreat was carried out with 25 people. It could be a model for the IERS retreat which will be done in the near future (see 5.).

Various discussions developed. There were in particular discussions about including geodynamics. Ivan Mueller was asked to deliver a text taking into account the various ideas.

4-3 Examination of proposals received for ILRS

John Degnan discussed the way the call was made and reviewed the proposals. The proposals were first reviewed by a special session of the CSTG SLR/LLR Subcommittee Steering Committee held before the 23rd General Assembly of EGS in Nice and then presented at the present IERS Directing Board. Successful proposers will be notified by early June with a goal of fully implementing the new ILRS organization by November 1, 1998. The organizational responses are grouped first by function (e.g. Central Bureau, station/subnetwork, analysis or associate analysis center, global or regional data center, and operations center), then by country in alphabetical order within each function, and then by station in alphabetical order within each country. One IERS representative will be appointed in July. In reciprocity an ILRS representative will be nominated.

For more details contact: John J. Degnan, Chairperson, CSTG SLR/LLR Subcommittee
(jjd@ltpmail.gsfc.nasa.gov)
or Bob. E. Schutz, SLR Representative to IERS Directing Board Coordinator
(schutz@utcsr.ae.utexas.edu)

4-4 Plan for an international VLBI service: impact for IERS

In parallel with the ILRS, the VLBI community is working on the development of a Service based on VLBI techniques known as the International VLBI Service (IVS) (formerly known as GAIVN or IGVN)). The DB stressed that the call for proposals be done jointly by IERS and CSTG.

Reciprocal representatives in GAIVN and the IERS is discussed. The board also acknowledged that the new organization could become the VLBI technique coordinating center for the IERS.

The web site for information about IVS is now at: <http://lupus.gsfc.nasa.gov/ivs/ivs.html>.

The minutes of the CSTG meeting can be found there, as well as the full text of the Terms of Reference.

4-5 IERS Sponsorship of proposed IAU Colloquium on "Polar Motion:

Historical and Scientific Problems" at the Cagliari University Center in September 1999.

The DB supported IERS sponsorship of this colloquium. On May 5th, Chris Reigber sent Dr Dick a letter explaining that the board found the programme very interesting and agreed to co-sponsor the colloquium.

5 - Planning of the IERS reorganisation and retreat

It was proposed by the Chairman that the IERS reorganisation should be one of the major issues at the planned IERS retreat. This retreat should be organized soon. The Potsdam workshop is a good opportunity. The date of 25/26 September was proposed. Another possibility could be at the end of the workshop, Friday afternoon 2 and Saturday 3 October.

The final date will be defined through e-mail consultation with the Board members. Names of external participants have to be proposed in order to limit the attendance to about 25 people.

6 - Plans for IERS Workshop

So far, few answers have been received by the local organisation committee.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Convener: Ch. Reigber (Germany)

The Workshop will focus on the three topics:

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| (1) Implementation of the IERS Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) | - Co-Convener: C. Boucher (France) |
| (2) Combinations of Data for IERS Products | - Co-Convener: D. Gambis (France) |
| (3) Monitoring Global Geophysical Fluids (MGGF) | - Co-Convener: B. F. Chao (USA) |

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Monday, Sept. 28, a.m.	Registration
Monday, Sept. 28, p.m. to Tuesday, Sept. 29	Scientific Sessions on Topic 1
Wednesday, Sept. 30	Scientific Sessions on Topic 2
Thursday, Oct. 1 to Friday, Oct. 2, a.m.	Scientific Sessions on Topic 3
Friday, Oct. 2, noon	Workshop Closing Address
Friday, Oct. 2, p.m.	Directing Board Meeting

This meeting will be displaced in case of IERS retreat meeting.