



INTERNATIONAL EARTH ROTATION SERVICE (IERS)
SERVICE INTERNATIONAL DE LA ROTATION TERRESTRE

Minutes of the IERS Directing Board Meeting No. 30

June 3/4, 2000

US Naval Observatory, Washington D.C.

September 10, 2000

prepared by Ch. Reigber, chairman

Attendance: C. Reigber (chairman), F. Arias, D. Gambis, B. Chao, C. Ma, P. Shelus, B. Schutz,
P. Willis, D.D. McCarthy, C. Boucher, J. Ray, W. Melbourne (only June 3)

Invitee: I. I. Mueller

Excused: P. Vondrak, D. Pugh

Welcome

The chairman expressed thanks to USNO, and Dennis McCarthy and Jim Ray in particular, for the provision of facilities and the preparatory work for the meeting.

Major actions since DB meeting No. 29:

The chairman reported that from the 16 institutions which had submitted a letter of intent prior to the last Directing Board (DB) meeting in San Francisco in December 1999, the 13 institutions listed in attachment 1 finally provided one or more detailed proposals for the various components of the new service. Three Russian proposals came in after the submission deadline, but were included into the evaluation process. Electronic versions of all 24 received individual proposals were kept at the GFZ and CB sites for access by the DB and the Proposal Review Board (RB) members.

The RB members selected at the DB's 29th meeting and the nominated chairman of the review board I. I. Mueller were asked to perform the review of proposals. Only Dr. Yatskiv and Dr. Yokoyama could not accept because of other important duties. After some discussions on the role of the review board and on planning of activities, the RB resumed its work in March 2000. It was agreed that the RB's chairman would present the RB's recommendations at the next DB meeting in May/June 2000.

Current Status of Work

IERS Technical Note 28

It was reported by the director of the CB that the TN 28 which is a collection of papers from the EGS 99 session on "High Frequency Oscillations of Earth Rotation" should be ready for distribution in June 2000.

ITRF 2000

The terrestrial reference frame realization 2000, to which 15 institutions are contributing individual solutions, is in its validation phase. Details on the ITRF 2000 are presented on the web page <http://lareg.ensg.ign.fr/ITRF/ITRF2000>. After having established very effective links with the IGS global network analysis coordinator Remi Ferland, it is considered appropriate to also establish more direct contacts with the IVS (Nothnagel) and ILRS (Noomen). This will very likely be realized within the structure of the new IERS.

Conventions 2000

All draft versions of the 12 different chapters are at hand now. A few chapters are presently under review by the editorial board. Some chapters are ready for final review and for some the draft has only recently been received. Chapter 12 will contain the IAU 180 meeting recommendations.

Call for Participation for the New IERS

The chairman of the proposal review board I.I. Mueller gave a short survey through the working procedures of the board, the outcome of the meetings of the RB in Nice on April 27, 2000 and in Washington D.C. on June 2, 2000 and the activities of the chairman and Lead Persons prior to the Nice meeting and between the meetings. At the Nice meeting, for a number of proposals a final recommendation could already be formulated. Some others needed clarification and this task was given to the Lead Persons for the respective new service component for being settled until the final RB meeting in June. Clarifications were requested for the proposals on the ICRS Product Center, the Rapid EOP Product Center, the ITRS Product Center, the Conventions Product Center and the Central Bureau. For the Analysis Coordinator function no formal proposal was received but a letter from Markus Rothacher indicating that he could propose to be IERS Analysis Coordinator after the summer 2001 provided certain conditions are met. The RB expressed strong support of this proposal and recommended to encourage the German groups to find solutions to this situation. However, it was also recommended by the RB that an interim solution should be found. Tom Herring agreed to act on a voluntary basis as interim IERS Analysis Coordinator until the summer of 2001 if requested by the IERS DB. As interim AC he would also coordinate the activities of the Combination Research Centers.

In the following the RB chairman presented the board's recommendations to the Directing Board who voted separately on each recommendation.

Analysis Coordinator:

It is strongly recommended that Markus Rothacher (TU Munich) assumes this responsibility by the academic year 2001 and that the German authorities are requested to provide him with the necessary assistance. Tom Herring (MIT) should be appointed as AC protem for the meantime.

DB vote: 9 yes, 1 abstention

Combination Research Centers (CRCs):

It is recommended to accept the CRC proposals of the Astronomical Institute Prague, the German Geodetic Research Institute (DGFI), The Research Group on Satellite Geodesy (FESG), the Geodetic Institute of the University Bonn (GIUB), The GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam (GFZ), the Forsvarets Forskninginstitut (FFI), the Groupe de Recherches de Géodésie Spatiales (GRGS) and the Institut Géographique National (IGN).

It is in addition recommended to combine the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's proposals on a Rapid Service / Prediction Product Center and Combination Research Product Center into one CRC proposal and to accept this combined CRC proposal. It is also recommended to accept the Institute of Applied Astronomy, St. Petersburg, proposal on an EOP Product Center, on a Rapid Service / Prediction Product Center, an ICRS Product Center and a Combinations Research Center as one Combination Research Center activity.

DB vote: 10 yes

ICRS Product Center:

It is recommended that the proposals of the Paris Observatory and the US Naval Observatory be combined into one joint proposal. The first draft for such a joint proposal, submitted by USNO on May 29, 2000, should be iterated. Chopo Ma is the designated RB's liaison to follow through. Final proposal is due on July 15, 2000. It is also recommended that the Sternberg State Astronomical Institute joins the ICRS PC later.

DB vote: 9 yes, 1 abstention

ITRS Product Center:

It is recommended that the proposals of the DGFI and IGN be combined into one joint proposal. It is also recommended that actions needed to prepare the joint proposal be initiated by DGFI. Bob Schutz is the designated RB's liaison to follow through. It is further recommended that the joint activity should already start with the generation of the ITRF2000. Final proposal is due on July 15, 2000.

DB vote: 9 yes, 1 abstention

Conventions Product Center:

It is recommended to make best use of the proposals of the US Naval Observatory and the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and to combine them into one joint proposal. The draft joint proposal delivered on May 30, 2000 looks acceptable, but needs some modifications concerning the proposed science Advisory Board. Final proposal is due on July 15, 2000.

DB vote: 7 yes, 1 abstention
(BIPM and USNO representatives did not vote)

Russian proposals:

The two Russian proposals from the Astronomical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (INASAN) and the Mission Control Center (RMCC) are very technique-oriented and are therefore not considered to answer the call for participation. It is recommended that the INASAN proposal be referred to the future DORIS Service (IDS) and the RMCC proposal to the ILRS (Laser Service).

DB vote: 10 yes

Earth Orientation Product Center:

It is recommended to accept the proposal of the Paris Observatory (PO) with the understanding that as improved methods/solutions emerge from the CRCs, the center will consider these.

DB vote: 9 yes
PO representative did not vote

Rapid Service / Prediction Product Center:

It is recommended to accept the USNO proposal.

DB vote: 8 yes, 1 abstention
USNO representative did not vote

Central Bureau:

It is recommended to accept the proposal of the Bundesanstalt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) with the understanding that Bernd Richter replaces Dr. Becker as the director designee. Action needs to be initiated asap for transfer of responsibilities from Paris Observatory.

DB vote: 8 yes, 1 abstention
CB director did not vote

It was agreed that as soon as the requested joint proposals arrive they should be reviewed by the RB and a final recommendation report be prepared by the RB after the July 15 deadline. When having delivered this report, the Review Board's assignment could be considered as completed.

The chairman should inform in writing all those institutions the proposals of which were accepted by the DB and should ask the International GPS, VLBI and SLR Services to nominate 2 representatives each as members in the new IERS Directing Board.

A special IERS Directing Board meeting extended by the designated representatives of the various new IERS components and the IGS, IVS, ILRS services should be prepared for the first half of September 2000 to decide on the requested joint proposals and to discuss the necessary steps for a smooth transition from the old into the new IERS service functions.

Attachment: List of Proposals for the New IERS