



Minutes of the IERS Directing Board Meeting No. 31

September 14-15, 2000

Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main

November 7, 2000

prepared by B. Richter and W. Dick

- Attendance: C. Reigber (chairman), F. Arias, C. Boucher, D. Gambis, C. Ma, J. Ray, P. Shelus, B. Schutz, J. Vondrak, P. Willis
- Invitees: C. Bruyninx, R. Noomen, A. Nothnagel, B. Richter, J. Souchay, T. Springer (future DB members), I. I. Mueller (Chairman of Proposal Review Committee), M. Rothacher, W. Dick
- Excused: D.D. McCarthy, B. Chao, W. Melbourne, D. Pugh (DB members), T. Herring (future DB member)

Welcome by the chairman

C. Reigber welcomed the participants of the meeting, mentioning shortly the forthcoming changes in the IERS and transmitting apologies from people not attending.

Welcome by the President of BKG

D. Grünreich, the president of BKG, welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the structure and the activities of BKG with respect to its new mission, especially in the fields of reference frames and earth rotation.

Introduction and Approval of minutes of DB meeting No. 30

To get familiar with the new board members and guests each participant briefly introduced herself/himself.

C. Reigber pointed out that all IERS components should be committed by the end of this year and that the new IERS should be fully operational by summer 2001.

C. Reigber instead of D. Gambis prepared the minutes of the last DB meeting. The minutes were not completely ready and have to be approved by the old board members via e-mail.

C. Reigber mentioned the new German Geotechnology Program as a source for financing German activities in the IERS and in the following he gave an overview of the activities of the DB since the last meeting.

Major activities since DB meeting No. 30

IERS Technical Note 28

D. Gambis reported that Technical Note No. 28, which will contain 13 papers, will be printed by the end of this year. It was decided that there will be no official review. A draft of the papers was sent to the printer a week ago and will be back in 1 to 2 weeks.

Annual report

As reported by D. Gambis, there is a delay of 1 month in preparing the Annual Report 1999. It will be finished by the end of September and will be sent to the printer during the first half of October.

ITRF 2000

C. Boucher reported that ITRF2000 is a continuation of previous work, using additional data. The following number of submitted solutions will be used for ITRF2000: VLBI - 3, LLR - 1, SLR - 6, GPS - 6, DORIS - 1, Multi-technique - 1. Four solutions cannot be used, mainly due to tight constraints which are not removable. There are also 8 solutions for GPS densification, 5 of which will be used. A workshop on ITRF2000 will be held in Paris on November 2-3, 2000. Public access will soon be given to the initial solution. The results should be ready by the end of this year, publication is due for 2001. Discussion aroused on the following points:

- Solutions used.
- NIMA data set for GPS densification: C. Boucher will clarify whether the data set is available. CSR is willing to compute the data, C. Reigber will write a letter to Jim Slater to make the data available for the ITRF solution.
- Local ties of different techniques: Nothing was done so far in this direction.

IAU resolutions

D. Gambis and J. Ray presented summaries of IAU resolutions adopted at the IAU General Assembly in August this year. Some of the points are:

- IAU recognizes IVS as an IAU service.
- A new precession-nutation model (IAU2000) has been adopted.
- Several resolutions specify details necessary for using the new ICRF based on positions of extragalactic radio sources.
- Terrestrial Time is now defined so that it is independent from the knowledge of the geoid.
- In cooperation with other Unions, a working group will be established to consider a possible redefinition of UTC (leap second problem).

Conventions 2000

On behalf of D. McCarthy, J. Ray reported that 6 out of 12 chapters are ready for final review. These are available at Web site <http://maia.usno.navy.mil/conv2000.html>.

Rapid Service

As reported by J. Ray, an improvement in the Rapid Service could be achieved by using AAM predicted data for the products. Official recognition by IERS of the relevant products of NCEP is needed.

Global Geophysical Fluids Center

C. Ma presented a report on the GGFC prepared by B. Chao. The Website <http://bowie.gsfc.nasa.gov/ggfc/> has gone public; this should be announced in an IERS Gazette. There will be a special symposium on "geophysical fluids" at EGS2001 in Nice.

Presentation of final recommendations of the Proposal Review Committee

I. Mueller reported about the progress on Call for Participation related activities since the last DB meeting (cf. final report of the Review Committee to the DB). Two revised (joint) proposals have been received (ICRS and Conventions PCs) and are recommended for adoption. The requested IGN/DGFI joint proposal has not been submitted.

The majority of the Committee recommends that the IERS DB issues two new CfPs: One for ITRS Combination/Analysis Centres, and one for an ITRS PC.

The Proposal Review Committee remarked that the CfP for the Central Bureau does not include the responsibility for data archiving, although the Terms of Reference does.

In the name of the Directing Board C. Reigber expressed his warmest thanks to the IERS Proposal Review Committee. The chairman and the entire committee put a lot of expertise, energy and time into working out the recommendations and into solving quite a number of delicate problems.

Present composition of the extended DB

The present composition of the extended DB was presented (see attachment).

International DORIS Service (IDS) has not been organized yet, this may last up to two years from now. Meanwhile the DORIS community will have an observing status in the IERS, represented by P. Willis.

The DB expressed concerns about the little presence of the FAGS representative in the DB and will contact FAGS and Paul Paquet in this matter.

T. Herring was asked to act as interim representative of the Combination Research Centers.

Introduction of the new members of the extended DB

An introduction of each of the IERS components was given and discussed.

Presentation of the planned structure of the new CB at BKG

B. Richter the designated director of the new CB explained the planned activities of the CB.

The IERS Central Bureau Information System will include:

- WEB Site (Reservation of domain IERS.ORG, a draft structure of WEB site).
- Messages (Urgent / official announcements of the IERS).
- Newsletters (Summaries of DB meetings; News from CB, Product Centres, Technique Centres; Announcements of IERS meetings and of other meetings related to Earth rotation services/research; News from the field (press releases of other organizations related to Earth rotation, summaries of publications) /*mainly electronic distribution*).
- Reports (Annual reports, etc. / *hard and electronic copies*).
- Publications (Technical notes, etc. / *hard and electronic copies*).

In addition, the planned product and archive centre was explained in detail.

General discussion on how to proceed

ITRS issue

After an intensive discussion on the ITRS PC, the following votes were made:

1. As proposed by the Review Committee, there will be ITRS Analysis Centers (ITRS ACs) producing independent solutions and an ITRS PC preparing the official ITRF.

DB vote: 10 yes

2. IGN will act as the ITRS PC for the first years. (As for all IERS components, this may be reviewed after a certain time.) C. Boucher is the representative of the ITRS PC in the DB.

DB vote: 7 yes, 2 abstentions, C. Boucher did not take part in voting.

3. IGN and DGFI will serve as ITRS ACs. The Chairman of the DB will launch a Call for Participation for more ACs.

DB vote: 10 yes

Revised proposals

The revised proposals for the ICRS and Conventions PCs were both approved, as well as their representatives to the DB (J. Souchay and D. McCarthy, resp.), who will represent the ICRS and

Conventions during the first term (3 to 4 years by agreement between the participating organizations).

DB vote: 9 yes, 1 abstention (in both votes)

Data center issue

The future CB should call a specialist meeting about the data flow and data center issues. Carey Noll should be invited. A possible date could be Oct. 31/ Nov. 1 in connection with the ITRF2000 Workshop.

Coordination of Combination Research Centres

The Analysis Coordinator and the CB should work on coordinating the Combination Research Centers (CRCs). It is necessary that they come together, in January or February 2001 at the latest. The CRCs should nominate a representative by beginning of December 2000.

Annual Report 2000

The new CB should present a draft of the Table of Contents of the Annual Report 2000 at the December DB meeting. A proposal about layout etc. should be made by January/March 2001.

Organisation and responsibilities during transition phase

The new IERS will officially start its work on January 1, 2001. The full responsibility of the new DB will start at the December meeting.

Miscellaneous

C. Boucher reminded the DB of the Working Group on ITRF data existing in the IERS. A working group on ICRS exists in IAU Division I.

C. Boucher should give a report on the status of network management to the next DB meeting in December.

Schedule for electing a new DB chairman

C. Reigber expressed his wish to be replaced by a new Chairman as soon as possible. A Nominating Committee (I. Mueller, F. Arias, B. Schutz) was formed. Nominations should be collected by December, the new DB will elect the new Chairman at its meeting in December. The new Chairman should start his work on March 31, 2001.

C. Reigber was asked to contact IAG concerning a new IUGG/IAG representative prior to the election of the new Chairman.

Next IERS DB meeting

The next DB meeting (1/2 day) will take place in connection with the next AGU Meeting (December 15-19). The exact date has to be confirmed.

Attachment: Structure of the new IERS / DB members