



International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS)

web: www.iers.org

Chair of the Directing Board: **B. Luzum** (USA)
Director of the Central Bureau: **D. Thaller** (Germany)

Development

The IERS was established as the International Earth Rotation Service in 1987 by the International Astronomical Union and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and it began operation on 1 January 1988. Since 2001, the IERS works in a new organizational structure; in 2003, the new name of the Service, without changing its abbreviation, was adopted. The IERS is a member of the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS).

Objectives

The primary objectives of the IERS are to serve the astronomical, geodetic and geophysical communities by providing the following:

- The International Celestial Reference System (ICRS) and its realization, the International Celestial Reference Frame (ICRF)
- The International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRS) and its realization, the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF)
- Earth orientation parameters required to study earth orientation variations and to transform between the ICRF and the ITRF
- Geophysical data to interpret time/space variations in the ICRF, ITRF or earth orientation parameters, and model such variations
- Standards, constants and models (i.e., conventions) encouraging international adherence

Products

IERS collects, archives and distributes products to satisfy the objectives of a wide range of applications, research and experimentation. These products include the following:

- International Celestial Reference Frame
- International Terrestrial Reference Frame
- Monthly earth orientation data
- Daily rapid service estimates of near real-time earth orientation data and their predictions
- Announcements of the differences between astronomical and civil time for time distribution by radio stations
- Leap second announcements

- Products related to global geophysical fluids such as mass and angular momentum distribution
- Annual report and technical notes on conventions and other topics
- Long-term earth orientation information

The accuracies of these products are sufficient to support current scientific and technical objectives including the following:

- Fundamental astronomical and geodetic reference systems
- Monitoring and modeling earth rotation/orientation
- Monitoring and modeling deformations of the solid earth
- Monitoring mass variations in the geophysical fluids, including the atmosphere and the hydrosphere
- Artificial satellite orbit determination
- Geophysical and atmospheric research, studies of dynamical interactions between geophysical fluids and the solid earth
- Space navigation.

Structure

The IERS accomplishes its mission through the following components:

- Technique Centers: International GNSS Service, International Laser Ranging Service, International VLBI Service, and International DORIS Service
- Product Centers: Earth Orientation Center, Rapid Service/Prediction Center, Conventions Center, ICRS Center, ITRS Center, and Global Geophysical Fluids Center with Special Bureaus for the Atmosphere, for the Oceans, for Hydrology, and for Combination
- ITRS Combination Centers at Deutsches Geodätisches Forschungsinstitut (DGFI), Geomatics Canada/Geodetic Survey Division, Institut Géographique National (IGN)
- Analysis Coordinator
- Central Bureau
- Directing Board
- Working Groups: WG on Site Survey and Co-location, WG on Combination at the Observation Level, IERS/IVS WG on the Second Realization of the ICRF, WG on SINEX Format.

Some of these components (e.g., Technique Centers) may be autonomous operations, structurally independent from IERS, but which cooperate with the IERS. A participating organization may also function as one or several of these components (except as a Directing Board).

IERS Directing Board 2011

Zuheir Altamimi (France), *ITRS Center Representative*
Aleksander Brzezinski (Poland), *IAU Representative*
Daniel Gambis (France), *Earth Orientation Center Representative*
Rüdiger Haas (Sweden), *IVS Representative*
Thomas Herring (USA), *Analysis Coordinator*
Urs Hugentobler (Germany), *IGS Representative*
Frank Lemoine (USA), *IDS Representative*
Brian J. Luzum (USA), *Rapid Service/Prediction Center Representative*
Chopo Ma (USA), *IVS Representative, Chair*
Jürgen Müller (Germany), *ILRS Representative*
Ericos C. Pavlis (USA), *ILRS Representative*
Gérard Petit (France), *Conventions Center Representative*
Bernd Richter (Germany), *Director of the Central Bureau*
Jean Souchay (France), *ICRS Center Representative*
Tonie van Dam (Luxembourg), *GGFC Representative*
Clark R. Wilson (USA), *IAG / IUGG Representative*