

IERS Conventions Product Centre

Report by Gérard Petit, BIPM, co-director of the Centre

Uniformity in the definition of space reference systems is becoming of importance to basic metrology. Such uniformity is essential for activities that use sets of measurements that are not local, as is the case of the astro-geodetic techniques contributing to the International Earth Rotation Service (IERS).

Following response to a call for participation issued by the IERS, the BIPM and the U. S. Naval Observatory (USNO) have been selected to work together to provide the Conventions Product Centre (CPC) of the IERS since 1 January 2001.

The tasks of the CPC are the following:

- (1) Edit the IERS Conventions, continuously maintaining the documents in electronic form and making available an updated printed version at the request of the Directing Board,
- (2) Maintain software in electronic form compatible with the IERS Conventions,
- (3) Study the consistency of the procedures used by the IERS analysis centers with the adopted conventions and study the impact of possible inconsistencies on the IERS products.

The first goal of the CPC is to complete the new edition of the IERS Conventions, known as Conventions 2000, a work involving tens of contributors world-wide and incorporating the latest Recommendations of the international scientific Unions. Following this, efforts will be devoted to implement facilities related to the electronic access including mirror sites, and techniques to update the electronic version and software . The CPC also intends to review the content and presentation of the IERS Conventions and how it interacts with the IERS community.

Individuals participating in the CPC are

For the USNO: Dr. Dennis D. McCarthy, co-director of the CPC, representative to the IERS Directing Board for 2001-2003, Dr. Thomas Johnson, Mr. Brian Luzum

For the BIPM: Dr. Gérard Petit, co-director of the CPC, Dr. Elisa Felicitas Arias, Dr. Peter Wolf.