

47th Directing Board Ersatz Meeting II – Minutes

Location: 2-hour Zoom meeting
Date: 18 January 2023
Note taker: Dirk Behrend
Version history: 5 June 2023

Attending Board members: Rüdiger Haas (Chair), Dirk Behrend, Johannes Böhm, Patrick Charlot, Alet de Witt, John Gipson, David Hall, Hayo Hase, Nancy Kotary, Nadia Shuygina, Yu Takagi, Oleg Titov, Gino Tuccari, Pablo de Vicente, Anastasiia Walenta.

Excused: Alexander Neidhardt, Chet Ruszczyk, Stuart Weston.

1. Welcome and approval of agenda

Rüdiger Haas welcomed the attending Board members. The Board approved the agenda for the ersatz meeting.

2. Update Station Situations: Warkworth and Santa Maria

Auckland University of Technology (AUT) decided to divest itself of Warkworth Observatory by mid-December 2022. A consortium was formed among several NZ government agencies to evaluate a possible transfer of the asset. Three operators were given six-months contracts with interim funding for continued operations during the deliberation period. It looked promising that a public-private partnership could be formed to ensure operations beyond the interim period.

Santa Maria is impacted by a radar in close proximity to the station, operating at about 3 GHz. The resulting interference caused that VGOS Band A had to be dropped. The station requested a letter of support. For the longer term, it is planned to install a superconducting filter that will remove interfering frequencies (notch filter). This may take many months.

3. Update Task Force on VLBI Scale Drift

No update on activities. The Onsala group has plans to work with Zuheir Altamimi to understand how the ITRF2020 combination process works.

4. Update VGOS Frequencies and Draft IUGG Resolution

The next IUGG General Assembly takes place in Berlin in July 2023. The deadline for submitting draft resolutions is coming up (31 January 2023). Hayo presented a draft resolution

on the “Protection of Geodetic Observatories against unwanted electro-magnetic emissions.” The Board reviewed the wording and suggested numerous changes. [The suggestions were integrated, and the resolution was submitted by the deadline.]

5. WDS: Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding, IVS Primary Contact

The Board approved the wording of the Memorandum of Understanding between IVS and WDS. The wording of the new MOU is basically a direct copy of the original MOU. The Board agreed that Anastasiia be the Primary Contact for the IVS and that Dirk be the Secondary Contact.

6. ITRF2020: Operational Use – IVS Publications – Documentation

The IVS Analysis Centers reprocess the data with the new models before the end of March. The operational use is then planned for 1 April 2023. John agreed to write a paper about the IVS contribution to ITRF2020.

Anastasiia suggested that the SINEX files used for the preparation of the IVS contribution to ITRF2020 be stored in a dedicated location. John requested that Anastasiia prepare a concrete suggestion that can then be agreed upon by the community and approved by the Board. John will investigate the option of establishing a GitHub account for the IVS.

7. VGOS Transition and Development Plan

Rüdiger received feedback on the Development Plan from USNO. A plan for the transition from S/X to VGOS would be valuable information for the funding agencies. This is a good topic for the planned IVS Retreat.

8. Planning of Future Meetings

The 12th IVS Technical Operations Workshop (TOW) will be held at MIT Haystack Observatory from April 30 through May 5 and will again include a Correlator Workshop. The TOW will be an in-person meeting only. The program discussion has started; a challenge will be to compensate the teaching loss (of E. Himwich and D. Horsley) in Field System and related classes.

The EVGA will take in Bad Kötzing, Germany, from June 12–16, 2023. Directly following, there’ll be an IVS Retreat (June 16–17) and an IVS Directing Board meeting (June 18). Possible invitees to the Retreat include Stephen Merkowitz, Christine Hackman, Bryan Dorland, Torben Schüler, Werner Enderle, and Daniela Thaller.

9. Miscellaneous

None.