

49th Directing Board Meeting – Minutes

Location: 4-hour Zoom meeting
Date: 17 November 2023
Note taker: Dirk Behrend
Version history: 15 February 2024

Attending Board members: Rüdiger Haas (Chair), Dirk Behrend, Johannes Böhm, Pablo de Vicente, Alet de Witt, John Gipson, Masafumi Ishigaki, Nancy Kotary, Lucia McCallum, Alexander Neidhardt, Chet Ruszczyk, Fengchun Shu, Oleg Titov, Gino Tuccari, Anastasiia Walenta.

Excused: Patrick Charlot, Phillip Haftings, Hayo Hase.

1. Welcome and approval of agenda

Rüdiger Haas welcomed the attending Board members. The Board approved the agenda for the 49th DB meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 48th IVS DB meeting

The Board approved the minutes of the 48th DB meeting.

3. Comments, questions, discussions on short written reports

The Network Coordinator Alexander Neidhardt plans a survey of the stations and is looking into options for hosting site logs (similar to the ILRS), among other things. Alexander summarized the activities in an IVS Newsletter article (December 2023, Issue 67, pages 9–10, <https://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/publications/newsletter/issue67.pdf>). Gino Tuccari mentioned that VGOS station information is compiled on the IVS Technology Coordinator website under Stations Compatibility Data (<https://www.ivs-technology-coordinator.info/ivs-station-data/>). Some station information needs to be updated; if provided by station groups, Gino can do the updates.

With the increase of radio interference, it is recommended that VGOS stations regularly monitor their RFI environment. Available tools include the software based on *mark5access* mentioned by Alexander; other efforts to monitor RFI include the work by Marta Bautista (IGN Spain), in particular looking into the effects of satellites.

The Board agreed to discuss the nomination procedure to determine the successor to John Gipson as Analysis Coordinator via email.

Anastasiia Walenta agreed to contact the suggested members for a working group on data documentation and to finalize a draft charter.

Rüdiger Haas presented an initial draft of an SX-to-VGOS transition plan. The Board agreed that it was a good starting point; however, there was concern that it was too closely built on the current operating model. Further aspects should include automation and developments needed for it as well as ways to trigger these developments.

4. IVS success analysis and performance feedback

Alexander Neidhardt was working on a system to provide feedback on session performance that could be used by stations to evaluate their individual antennas. He hoped to have a demonstration version ready by the General Meeting. Lucia McCallum mentioned that such feedback would constitute an important service to the stations. There is a need for increased feedback in addition to the correlator and analysis reports.

5. IAG – UN-GGCE “Listening World Tour”

The United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) was recently established in Bonn, Germany. The inaugural chair is Nicholas Brown (formerly of Geoscience Australia). The center was organizing a listening tour that was open to all. The IAG services were asked to provide a couple of crucial aspects for improving service performance. The Board discussed some talking points: frequency protection and the ITU, data transfer and cyber security, support letters for establishing further correlation centers on UN letterhead, and seek further stations in the southern hemisphere. The Board agreed to discuss further points via email before the actual event on November 28.

6. CRF at VGOS and higher frequencies

The Board unanimously approved the proposal to extend the IVS celestial reference frame (CRF) work to include the K-band activities.

7. Storage of ITRF contribution at data centers

Anastasiia Walenta suggested that dedicated areas be created at the data centers to store the IVS contributions to the various realizations of the ITRF. She agreed to check how other services are handling this.

8. Increase number of IVS DC

Anastasiia Walenta voiced concern that, in view of one data center being down (BKG has been offline since April 2023), three data centers may not be sufficient for IVS operations.

9. Upcoming changes in the IVS DB

John Gipson will resign from his position as IVS Analysis Coordinator after the IVS General Meeting in Tsukuba. The nomination procedure was already discussed in TOP 3.

Johannes Böhm informed the IAG Executive Committee that he would not be available for another term as IAG Representative on the IVS Directing Board. The IAG will nominate a different representative. This IAG position is refilled every four years.

10. IVS technical paper in *Sensors*?

Chet Ruszczyk stated that this paper is on his to-do list.

11. Planning IVS GM 2024 and IVS 25th Anniversary

Masafumi Ishigaki reported that the Third Announcement was distributed and that the meeting website updated. Registration and abstract submission were opened. The organization of the program will follow the EVGA example of having 45-min blocks for oral presentations and including stretch-your-legs breaks.

12. Miscellaneous

The Board favored that the proposal from Warkworth Observatory under new ownership should be signed by both sponsoring organizations.

Gino Tuccari mentioned that HatLab provided a DBBC3 unit to the Chinese National Time Service Center (NTSC) for their observing network; the group requested more units.