
IVS is a Service of the IAU

IVS was recognized as a Service of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) effective July 1999 when the General Assembly was held in Birmingham/England. Since the XXIVth General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union IAU held in Manchester/England, August 2000 the IVS is also recognized as a Service of the IAU. Here is the IAU resolution:

IAU Resolutions B1.1 Maintenance and Establishment of Reference Frames and Systems

The International Astronomical Union

Noting

1. that Resolution B2 of the XXIIIrd General Assembly (1997) specifies that “the fundamental reference frame shall be the International Celestial Reference Frame (ICRF) constructed by the IAU Working Group on Reference Frames”,
2. that Resolution B2 of the XXIIIrd General Assembly (1997) specifies “That the Hipparcos Catalogue shall be the primary realisation of the International Celestial Reference System (ICRS) at optical wavelengths”, and
3. the need for accurate definition of reference systems brought about by unprecedented precision, and

Recognising

1. the importance of continuing operational observations made with Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) to maintain the ICRF,
2. the importance of VLBI observations to the operational determination of the parameters needed to specify the time- variable transformation between the International Celestial and Terrestrial Reference Frames,
3. the progressive shift between the Hipparcos frame and the ICRF, and
4. the need to maintain the optical realisation as close as is possible to the ICRF

Recommends

1. that IAU Division I maintain the Working Group on Celestial Reference Systems formed from Division I members to consult with the International Earth Rotation Service (IERS) regarding the maintenance of the ICRS,
2. that the IAU recognise the International VLBI Service (IVS) for Geodesy and Astrometry as an IAU Service Organization,
3. that an official representative of the IVS be invited to participate in the IAU Working Group on Celestial Reference Systems,
4. that the IAU continue to provide an official representative to the IVS Directing Board,
5. that the astrometric and geodetic VLBI observing programs consider the requirements for maintenance of the ICRF and linking to the Hipparcos optical frame in the selection of sources to be observed (with emphasis on the Southern Hemisphere), design of observing networks, and the distribution of data, and
6. that the scientific community continue with high priority ground- and spacebased observations (a) for the maintenance of the optical Hipparcos frames and frames at other wavelengths and (b) for links of the frames to the ICRF.