

Preface

This volume of reports is the 2013 Annual Report of the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS). The individual reports were contributed by VLBI groups in the international geodetic and astrometric community who constitute the permanent components of IVS.

The IVS 2013 Annual Report documents the work of the IVS components for the calendar year 2013, our fifteenth year of existence. The reports describe changes, activities, and progress of the IVS. Many thanks to all IVS components who contributed to this Annual Report.

With the exception of the first section and the last section, the contents of this Annual Report also appear on the IVS Web site at

<http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/publications/ar2013>

This book and the Web site are organized as follows:

- The first section contains general information about IVS, a map showing the locations of the components, information about the Directing Board members, and the annual report of the IVS Chair.
- The second section holds four special reports. The first report, “Final Report of IVS Working Group 4 (WG4) on Data Structures”, presents the work of Working Group 4, which was established in 2007 to design a data structure to meet requirements for VLBI sessions and to prepare for the transition to the new structure. This report gives the history of Working Group 4’s efforts, a description of the final data structure, and the remaining steps needed to implement it. The second report,

“IVS WG6 Final Report”, presents the work of Working Group 6, which was established in 2009 to promote education and training within the IVS. Working Group 6’s specific mandates were to develop contacts at educational institutions related to VLBI in order to raise interest in VLBI among students, to develop educational material that could be distributed to educational institutions, and to seek funding, develop a concept, and prepare for providing training, e.g., through VLBI schools. The WG6 report assesses how well WG6 has met its mandates. The report lists contacts identified under the first mandate, material collected under the second mandate, and funding efforts made under the third mandate. The report concludes by discussing and evaluating its first training school, which was held in Helsinki, Finland in conjunction with the EVGA meeting in March 2013, co-sponsored by the European Geosciences Union (EGU), Onsala Space Observatory, and RadioNet, and supported by Aalto University and the Finnish Geodetic Institute. The third report, “VGOS Data Recorder Comparison”, presents tables that assess data recorders for compliance with the VGOS (VLBI Global Observing System) standards. The fourth report, “Proposal for VGOS Observing Plan”, presents the plan of the VPEG (VGOS Project Executive Group) to gradually introduce VGOS observing over the next several years. By means of trial sessions and pilot projects, the proposed observing plan transitions from basically no VGOS observing in 2014 to a fully established 24/7 VGOS observing program by the end of the decade. The plan was endorsed by the IVS Directing Board at its most recent meeting and will be implemented by the IVS Coordinating Center and the OPC (Observing Program Committee).

- The next seven sections hold the reports from the Coordinators and the reports from the IVS Permanent Components: Network Stations, Operation Centers, Correlators, Data Centers, Analysis Centers, and Technology Development Centers.
- The next section contains a compilation of publications in the field of geodetic and astrometric VLBI during 2013.
- The last section includes reference information about IVS. This year the information section has been streamlined, and the majority of it will only be provided on-line. This change conserves paper, but it also recognizes that some categories of information (most notably the list of Associate Members) change within a year, rendering

the printed information out-of-date. Therefore, this year the information section only includes the Terms of Reference and a table of links to the Member and Affiliated organizations, the Associate Members, and the permanent components.

As a replacement for the list of acronyms previously included in the Annual Report, the Coordinating Center plans to develop an on-line list of acronyms to be posted on the IVS web site in the future. The list of addresses of institutions that contributed to this year's Annual Report has been discontinued.