

# Coordinating Center Report

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**Abstract** This report summarizes the activities of the IVS Coordinating Center during the year 2014 and forecasts activities planned for the year 2015.

## 1 Coordinating Center Operation

The IVS Coordinating Center is based at the Goddard Space Flight Center and is operated by NEOS (National Earth Orientation Service), a joint effort for VLBI by the U.S. Naval Observatory and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

The mission of the Coordinating Center is to provide communications and information for the IVS community and the greater scientific community and to coordinate the day-to-day and long-term activities of IVS.

The Web server for the Coordinating Center is provided by Goddard. The address is

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

## 2 Activities during 2014

During the period from January through December 2014, the Coordinating Center supported the following IVS activities:

- **Directing Board support:** Coordinated, with local committees, two IVS Directing Board meetings,

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Coordinating Center

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in Shanghai, China (March 2014) and Tsukuba, Japan (October 2014). Notes from each meeting were published on the IVS Web site.

- **VGOS:** Supported the activities for establishing the VLBI Global Observing System (VGOS) through participation in the VGOS Technical Committee (VTC) and the VGOS Project Executive Group (VPEG).
- **Communications support:** Maintained the Web pages, e-mail lists, and Web-based mail archive files. Maintained the 24-hour and Intensive session Web pages including the data acquisition, correlation, analysis, and performance summaries.
- **Meetings:** Coordinated, with the Local Committee, the eighth IVS General Meeting, held in Shanghai, China in March 2014. Chaired the Program Committee for the meeting and prepared the program booklet.



**Fig. 1** Participants of the eighth IVS General Meeting.

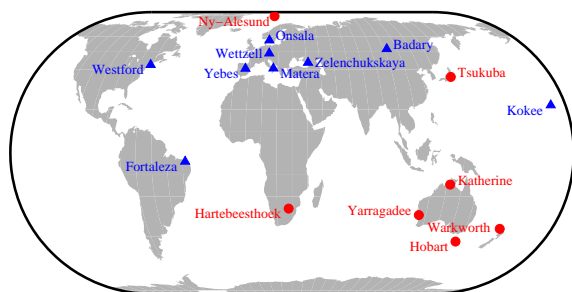
- **Publications:** Published the 2013 Annual Report in summer 2014. Published three editions of the IVS Newsletter in April, August, and December 2014. Published the Proceedings volume of the eighth IVS General Meeting in cooperation with the Chinese publishing house Science Press in December

2014. All publications are available electronically as well as in print form.

- **Observing Program Committee (OPC):** Coordinated meetings of the OPC to monitor the observing program, review problems and issues, and discuss changes.
- **2014 Master Schedule:** Generated and maintained the Master Observing Schedule for 2014. Coordinated VLBI resources for observing time, correlator usage, and disk modules. Coordinated the usage of Mark 5 systems at IVS stations and efficient deployment of disk modules.
- **2015 Master Schedule:** Generated the proposed Master Schedule for 2015 and received approval from the Observing Program Committee.

### 3 CONT14 Campaign

The Continuous VLBI Campaign 2014 (CONT14) was successfully observed in early May 2014. Seventeen IVS stations at sixteen sites (see Figure 2) observed for fifteen consecutive days at a rate of 512 Mbps from 6–20 May 2014. The observing was done on the basis of UT days with each CONT14 day running from 0 UT to 24 UT. UT day observing allows for the most accurate combination and comparison of results with other techniques.



**Fig. 2** Geographical distribution of the sixteen CONT14 sites. The sites in red (circles) mostly e-transferred their data to the correlator, whereas the blue sites (triangles) physically shipped their recording modules.

All CONT14 data were correlated at the Bonn Correlator, easing the logistics involved with module handling at the correlators and the stations, and ensuring the creation of a homogeneous data set.

The Coordinating Center, in collaboration with the OPC, was responsible for:

- the overall planning and coordination of the campaign,
- the media usage and shipment schedule, and
- the preparation of the detailed observing schedules and notes.

More information about the CONT14 campaign can be found on the IVS Web site under the URL <http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/program/cont14>.

### 4 Staff

The staff of the Coordinating Center is drawn from individuals who work at Goddard. The staff and their responsibilities are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1** IVS Coordinating Center staff.

Name	Title	Responsibilities
Dirk Behrend	Director	Web site and e-mail system maintenance, Directing Board support, meetings, publications, session Web page monitoring
Cynthia Thomas	Operation Manager	Master schedules (current year), resource management and monitoring, meeting and travel support, special sessions
Frank Gomez	Web Manager	Web server administration, mail system maintenance, Data Center support, session processing scripts, mirror site liaison
Karen Baver	General Programmer and Editor	Publication processing programs, LaTeX support and editing, session Web page support and scripts, Data Center support
Kyla Armstrong	Data Technician and Editor	Publications support and Web site support

### 5 Plans for 2015

The Coordinating Center plans for 2015 include the following:

- Maintain IVS Web site and e-mail system.
- Publish the 2014 Annual Report (this volume).
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the eighth IVS Technical Operations Workshop to be held at

the MIT Haystack Observatory, MA, USA in May 2015.

- Support Directing Board meetings in 2015.
- Coordinate the 2015 Master Observing Schedules and IVS resources.
- Publish Newsletter issues in April, August, and December.
- Support the VGOS activities within the VTC and the VPEG.