

## Foreword

Since its creation in 1999, the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS) has documented its progress and current status in the form of annual or biennial reports. The first sixteen years were recorded in the form of annual reports, while starting with the years 2015+2016 the rhythm was changed to two years. Hence, the 2017+2018 Biennial Report constitutes the second installment of the two-yearly reporting scheme, documenting the work of the IVS components for the calendar years 2017 and 2018.

As a testament to its usefulness, the general structure of the reporting has remained stable over the years: the individual components of the IVS contributed short reports describing their numerous activities, progress, and future plans. Without the continued input from the VLBI groups of the international geodetic and astrometric community, this publication could not be compiled and the IVS itself would not be able to flourish. So, once again many thanks to all IVS components who contributed to this Biennial Report.

The IVS has decided to go green. For that, like with the IVS Newsletter and the General Meeting Proceedings, this Biennial Report will only be available electronically—there will be no printed version distributed. The contents of this report appear on the IVS Web site at

<https://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/publications/br2017+2018>

The contents of the report are organized as follows:

- The initial section holds a special report. At its 40th meeting, the IVS Directing Board approved the Fi-

nal Report of the Working Group on Galactic Aberration (WG8) and WG8 was officially closed. The Final Report is reproduced here.

- The next seven sections hold the reports from the Coordinators (including the Chair) and the reports from the IVS Permanent Components: Network Stations, Operation Centers, Correlators, Data Centers, Analysis Centers, and Technology Development Centers.
- The final section provides reference information about IVS. Following the current (September 23, 2011) version of the IVS Terms of Reference, a reference table is provided with links to the IVS Member and Affiliated organizations, the IVS Associate Members, and the IVS permanent components.

Given that the Biennial Report in its online location is in the immediate vicinity of information concerning the IVS organization, the editors felt that it is not indicated to reproduce this information in the report itself. Hence, we would like to ask our readers to make use of the online tools to look up the most recent lists of IVS components, its member organizations as well as affiliated organizations, and Directing Board Members. Useful links are compiled in the closing section of this report.

During the report period, the IVS consisted of

- 32 Network Stations, acquiring high performance VLBI data,
- 3 Operation Centers, coordinating the activities of a network of Network Stations,
- 7 Correlators, processing the acquired data, providing feedback to the stations and providing processed data to analysts,
- 5 Data Centers, distributing products to users, providing storage and archiving functions,

- 28 Analysis Centers, analyzing the data and producing the results and products,
  - 7 Technology Development Centers, developing new VLBI technology, and
  - 1 Coordinating Center, coordinating daily and long-term activities.
- There were altogether
- 83 Permanent Components, representing 41 institutions in 21 countries, and
  - about 300 Associate Members.