

Coordinating Center Report

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Abstract This report summarizes the activities of the IVS Coordinating Center during the calendar years 2023 and 2024 and provides an outlook on activities planned for the next two years.

1 Coordinating Center Operation

The IVS Coordinating Center is based at the Goddard Space Flight Center and is operated by the National Earth Orientation Service (NEOS), 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 and 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

<https://ivscg.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

2 Activities During 2023 and 2024

During the period from January 2023 through December 2024, the Coordinating Center supported the following IVS activities:

- **Directing Board Support:** Following the interruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Direct-

ing Board activities were largely back to normal. The Coordinating Center coordinated, with local committees, four IVS Directing Board meetings: Wettzell, Germany (June 2023), virtual (November 2023), Tsukuba, Japan (March 2024), and Westford, MA, USA (October 2024). Notes from each meeting were published on the IVS website.

- **Observing Program Committee (OPC):** Coordinated meetings of the OPC to monitor the observing program, review problems and issues, and discuss changes.
- **Master Schedules for 2023 and 2024:** Generated and maintained the Master Observing Schedules for 2023 and 2024. Coordinated VLBI resources for observing time, correlator usage, and media usage (data transport and storage). Coordinated the usage of Mark 5 and Mark 6 systems at IVS stations and efficient deployment of disk modules.
- **2024 and 2025 Master Schedules:** Generated the proposed Master Schedules for 2024 and 2025 and received approval from the Observing Program Committee.
- **VLBI Global Observing System (VGOS):** Supported the activities for establishing the VGOS through participation in the VGOS Technical Committee (VTC) and organizing meetings of the VGOS Operations and Resources group and the VGOS Correlators.
- **Communications Support:** Maintained the web pages and e-mail lists. The IVS mailing lists are part of the NASA-wide Agency Mailing List Service (AMLS). The Coordinating Center curates and updates the status of each list so that it reflects the most recent version of the subscription list. The general public (i.e., non-NASA users) cannot access the web interface, including the list archives.

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IVS 2023+2024 Biennial Report

Maintained the 24-hour and Intensive session web pages including the data acquisition, correlation, analysis, and performance summaries.

- **Publications:** Published the 2021+2022 Biennial Report in November 2023. Published six editions of the IVS Newsletter in the months of April, August, and December of 2023 and 2024. Published the 2022 General Meeting Proceedings in January 2023. All publications are available in electronic form only and can be found at <https://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/publications/>.
- **Meetings:** Coordinated, with local committees, the 12th IVS Technical Operations Workshop, held at MIT Haystack Observatory in May 2023, and the

special video presentation for the anniversary event outlining “Milestones and Other Measures.”

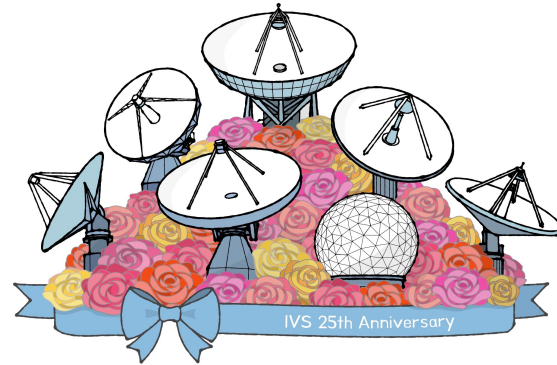


Fig. 3 Logo for the IVS 25th Anniversary created by Masafumi Ishigaki.



Fig. 1 Logo of the 12th IVS Technical Operations Workshop.

13th IVS General Meeting, held in Tsukuba, Japan, in March 2024. Chaired the Program Committees of both meetings. With the official inauguration date of the IVS being March 1, 1999, a festive event was held as part of the GM to commemorate 25 years of successful service activities. Prepared a



Fig. 2 Banner of the 13th IVS General Meeting, held in Tsukuba, Japan, in March 2024.

3 Staff

The staff of the Coordinating Center is drawn from individuals who work at Goddard. The staff and their responsibilities during 2023–2024 are listed in Table 1. In November 2024 Kyla Armstrong left Goddard’s VLBI group; her tasks will be taken over by Arryelle Thomas in spring of 2025.

Table 1 IVS Coordinating Center staff.

Name	Title	Responsibilities
Dirk Behrend	Director	Website 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
Mario Bérubé	Offsite Consultant	Session processing scripts, Data Center support
Karen Baver	General Programmer and Editor	Publication processing programs, LaTeX support and editing, Data Center support
Kyla Armstrong	Data Technician and Editor	Publications support and website support

4 Plans for 2025 and 2026

The Coordinating Center plans for 2025 and 2026 include the following:

- Maintain the IVS website and mailing lists. Modernize the IVS website.
- Publish the 2023+2024 Biennial Report (this volume).
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the 13th IVS Technical Operations Workshop to be held at MIT Haystack Observatory, MA, USA, in May 2025.
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the 14th IVS General Meeting to be held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, in April 2026.
- Maintain the new ingest software at the Data Centers.
- Publish the Proceedings volume of the 13th IVS General Meeting.
- Support Directing Board meetings in 2025 and 2026.
- Coordinate the 2025 and 2026 Master Observing Schedules and IVS resources.
- Publish Newsletter issues in April, August, and December of 2025 and 2026.
- Support the VGOS activities within the VTC, the VGOS Operations and Resources group, and the VGOS Correlators.