

U.S. Naval Observatory Operation Center

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Abstract

This report covers the activities of the NEOS Operation Center at USNO for 1999 and 2000.

1. VLBI Operations

NEOS operations in the period covered consisted of one 24-hour duration NEOS-A observing session, on Tuesday-Wednesday of each week, for Earth Orientation, together with daily one-hour duration “intensives” for UT1 determination. The operational NEOS-A network has included VLBI stations at Gilmore Creek (Alaska), Kokee Park (Hawaii), Wettzell (Germany), Fortaleza (Brazil), Ny-Ålesund (Norway), Algonquin Park (Canada), Westford (Massachusetts), Matera (Italy), Yellowknife (Canada) and Green Bank (West Virginia). No more than six stations were used in any given NEOS-A.

During the reporting period, the Green Bank station was closed and is no longer available. The daily intensive sessions switched from the Green Bank – Wettzell network to the Kokee Park – Wettzell network.

All sessions are correlated at the Washington Correlator, which is located at USNO and is run by NEOS.

2. Staff Changes

During the reporting period, T.M. Eubanks left USNO to pursue opportunities in the private sector. B.A. Archinal left USNO for a job at the U.S. Geological Survey in Flagstaff, AZ. M.S. Carter has assumed the scheduling duties.