

NEOS Operation Center

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Abstract

This report covers the activities of the NEOS Operation Center at USNO for 2008. The Operation Center schedules IVS-R4 and the INT1 Intensive experiments.

1. VLBI Operations

NEOS operations in the period covered consisted, each week, of one 24-hour duration IVS-R4 observing session, on Thursday-Friday, for Earth Orientation, together with five daily one-hour duration “intensives” for UT1 determination, Monday through Friday. The operational IVS-R4 network has included VLBI stations at Kokee Park (Hawaii), Wettzell (Germany), Fortaleza (Brazil), Ny-Ålesund (Norway), TIGO (Chile), Svetloe, Badary and Zelenchukskaya (Russia), Hobart (Australia), Matera and Medicina (Italy), and Westford (USA). A typical R4 consisted of 6 to 8 stations.

The regular stations for the weekday IVS Intensives were Kokee Park and Wettzell. Intensives including Kokee Park, Wettzell, and Svetloe were observed twice per month in order to characterize the Kokee Park – Svetloe baseline so that Svetloe can be used as an alternate for Wettzell should it be needed.

The Operations Center migrated from the older Unix version of the “sked” program to the Linux version. Starting 15 September, all R4 and Intensive schedules were written using the Linux version of sked.

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

Table 1. Experiments scheduled during 2008

52	IVS-R4 experiments
212	Intensives (Kk–Wz)
24	Kk-Sv-Wz Intensives

2. Staff

K. A. Kingham and M. S. Carter are the only staff members of the NEOS Operation Center. Kingham is responsible for the overall management, and Carter makes the schedules. M. S. Carter is located at the USNO Flagstaff Station (NOFS).