

Coordinating Center Report

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Abstract

This report summarizes the activities of the IVS Coordinating Center during the year 2005, and forecasts activities planned for the year 2006.

1. Coordinating Center Operation

The IVS Coordinating Center is based at 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 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 2005

During the period from January through December 2005, the Coordinating Center supported the following IVS activities:

- Directing Board support: Coordinated, with local committees, two IVS Directing Board meetings, in Noto, Italy (April 2005) and Washington, DC, USA (September 2005). Notes from each meeting were published on the IVS web site.
- Communications support: Maintained the web pages, e-mail lists, and web-based mail archive files. Printed and distributed the final report of Working Group 3 “VLBI2010”.
- Publications: Published the 2004 Annual Report in spring 2005. Published three editions of the IVS Newsletter in April, August, and December, 2005. All publications are available electronically as well as in print form.
- 2005 Master Schedule: Generated and maintained the master observing schedule for 2005. Coordinated VLBI resources for observing time, correlator usage, tapes and disk modules. Coordinated the usage of Mark 5 systems at IVS stations and efficient deployment of disk modules. Coordinated the continuous VLBI campaign CONT05 (see Section 3).
- 2006 Master Schedule: Generated the proposed master schedule for 2006 and received approval from the Observing Program Committee.
- Meetings: Coordinated, with the Local Committee, the third IVS Technical Operations Workshop, held at Haystack Observatory, USA in May 2005. Chaired the Program Committee for the workshop. Coordinated, with the Local Committee, the fourth IVS General Meeting, held in Concepción, Chile in January 2006. Chaired the Program Committee for the meeting.

- Observing Program Committee (OPC): Coordinated meetings of the OPC to monitor the observing program, review problems and issues, and discuss changes.

3. CONT05 Campaign

In the period September 12–27, 2005 the 15 days of the continuous VLBI campaign CONT05 were observed. The Coordinating Center 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.

The schedules were generated using the automatic scheduling algorithms of the NASA sked program. The best combination of scheduling parameters, minimum SNR levels, source list, and flux models were investigated. The chosen solution was based on a compromise between the optimum simulated formal errors, number of observations, number of scans per hour, sky coverage, and robustness.



Figure 1. Geographical distribution of the 11 CONT05 stations.

The recording mode corresponded to the IVS-R1 rapid turnaround experiments with a data rate of 256 Mbps. Based on simulations, the expected formal errors for the EOPs were at the 35 micro-arcsec level (or better) for pole position and 1.4 micro-sec for UT1. The actual results are in the range of the expected precision reflecting the excellent work done at the stations and correlators.

More information about the CONT05 campaign can be found on the IVS web site under the URL <http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/program/cont05>.

4. Staff

The staff of the Coordinating Center is drawn from individuals who work at Goddard. The staff and their responsibilities are:

Name	Title	Responsibilities
Dirk Behrend	Director	Web site and e-mail system maintenance, Directing Board support, meetings, publications, session web pages monitoring
Cynthia Thomas	Operation Manager	Master schedule (current year), resource management and monitoring, meetings 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	Publication Programmer and Editor	Publication processing programs, Latex support and editorial assistance



Figure 2. IVS Chair Wolfgang Schlüter (left) presents Nancy Vandenberg (right), the outgoing Coordinating Center Director, with a bouquet of flowers.

In September 2005 Nancy Vandenberg retired as IVS Coordinating Center Director ending a year-long transition period in which she gradually passed on her duties to Dirk Behrend as her successor. The official change of directorship occurred at the IVS Directing Board meeting in Washington.

5. Plans for 2006

The Coordinating Center plans for 2006 include the following:

- Maintain IVS web site and e-mail system; implement new station pages.
- Publish the 2005 Annual Report (this volume).

- Publish Proceedings of the fourth IVS General Meeting.
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the fourth IVS General Meeting, to be held in Concepcion, Chile, in January 2006.
- Support Directing Board meetings in 2006.
- Coordinate Directing Board elections.
- Coordinate the 2006 master observing schedule and IVS resources.
- Publish Newsletter issues in April, August, and December.
- Publish an IVS color brochure.