

Coordinating Center Report

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Abstract This report summarizes the activities of the IVS Coordinating Center during the calendar years 2017 and 2018 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 NEOS (National Earth Orientation Service), 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 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

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

2 Activities during 2017 and 2018

During the period from January 2017 through December 2018, the Coordinating Center supported the following IVS activities:

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- **Directing Board support:** Coordinated, with local committees, three IVS Directing Board meetings: Gothenburg, Sweden (May 2017), Bologna, Italy (October 2017), and Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (June 2018). Notes from each meeting were published on the IVS Web site.
- **Observing Program Committee (OPC):** Coordinated meetings of the OPC to monitor the observing program, review problems and issues, and discuss changes.
- **Master Schedules for 2017 and 2018:** Generated and maintained the Master Observing Schedules for 2017 and 2018. Coordinated VLBI resources for observing time, correlator usage, and disk modules. Coordinated the usage of Mark 5 systems at IVS stations and efficient deployment of disk modules.
- **2019 Master Schedule:** Generated the proposed Master Schedule for 2019 and received approval from the Observing Program Committee.
- **VGOS:** Supported the activities for establishing the VLBI Global Observing System (VGOS) through participation in the VGOS Technical Committee (VTC) and the VGOS Operations and Resources group.
- **Communications support:** Maintained the Web pages, e-mail lists, and Web-based mail archive files. The e-mail lists were migrated from the GSFC



Fig. 1 Logo of the ninth IVS Technical Operations Workshop.



Fig. 2 Banner of the tenth IVS General Meeting in Norway.

VLBI Group local server to a NASA-wide service in September 2017. In the migration step the membership subscriptions were carried over, and non-active lists were discontinued. Maintained the 24-hour and Intensive session Web pages including the data acquisition, correlation, analysis, and performance summaries.

- **Publications:** Published the 2015+2016 Biennial Report in fall 2017. Published six editions of the IVS Newsletter in the months of April, August, and December of 2017 and 2018. All publications are available electronically as well as in print form.
- **Meetings:** Coordinated, with the Local Committees, the ninth IVS Technical Operations Workshop, held at Haystack Observatory in May 2017, and the tenth IVS General Meeting, held in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway in June 2018. Chaired the Program Committees of both meetings.



Fig. 3 Participants of the tenth IVS General Meeting visiting Ny-Ålesund.

3 CONT17 Campaign

In November/December 2017 the Continuous VLBI Campaign 2017 (CONT17) was successfully observed. The Coordinating Center, in collaboration with the OPC, 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 for the two legacy networks (CONT17-L1 and CONT17-L2).

The campaign consisted of three separate networks: two legacy S/X networks observing for 15 consecutive days and one VGOS broadband network observing for five consecutive days in the middle of the CONT17 period. The use of the two legacy networks allows study of the accuracy of VLBI estimates of EOP and investigation of possible network biases. A special issue on CONT17 is planned to be published in the Journal of Geodesy.

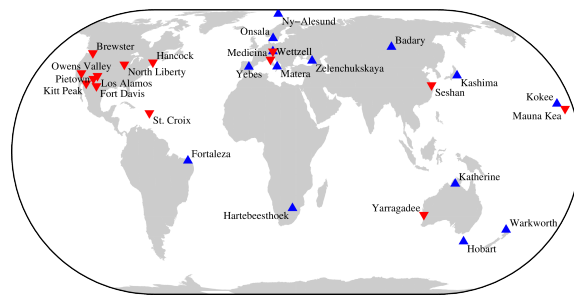


Fig. 4 The two 14-station legacy S/X networks of CONT17: blue triangles ▲ depict CONT17-L1, and red inverted triangles ▼ depict CONT17-L2.

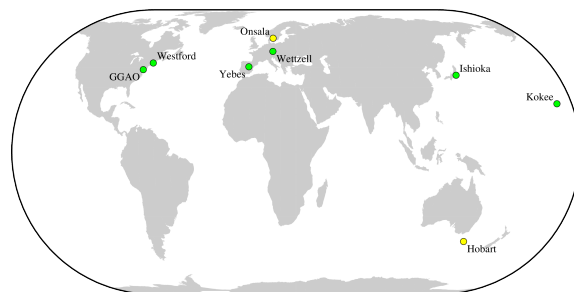


Fig. 5 The six-station CONT17 VGOS demonstration network CONT17-VGOS (green circles ●). The broadband signal chain roll-out for Onsala and Hobart (yellow circles ●) was not completed on time for their official inclusion in the campaign.

More information about the CONT17 campaign can be found on the IVS Web site under the URL <https://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/program/cont17>.

4 Staff

The staff of the Coordinating Center was drawn from individuals who work at Goddard. The staff and their responsibilities are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 IVS Coordinating Center staff.

Name	Title	Responsibilities
Dirk Behrend	Director	Web site 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
Frank Gomez	Web Manager	Web server administration, mail system maintenance, Data Center support, session processing scripts, mirror site liaison
Karen Baver	General Programmer and Editor	Publication processing programs, LaTeX support and editing, session Web page support and scripts, Data Center support
Kyla Armstrong	Data Technician and Editor	Publications support and Web site support

After supporting the Coordinating Center for almost twenty years, Frank Gomez began working in a different section of GSFC in May 2018. His responsibilities towards the Coordinating Center have been divided among other system administrators (Ross Asato and Brian Town for Web server administration and mail system maintenance), CDDIS Data Center personnel

(Justine Woo for Data Center support and mirroring), and an offsite consultant (Mario Bérubé for session processing scripts).

5 Plans for 2019 and 2020

The Coordinating Center plans for 2019 and 2020 include the following:

- Maintain IVS Web site and e-mail system.
- Publish the 2017+2018 Biennial Report (this volume).
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the tenth IVS Technical Operations Workshop to be held at the MIT Haystack Observatory, MA, USA in May 2019.
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the eleventh IVS General Meeting to be held in Annapolis, MD, USA in March 2020.
- Publish the Proceedings volume of the eleventh IVS General Meeting.
- Support Directing Board meetings in 2019 and 2020.
- Coordinate the 2019 and 2020 master observing schedules and IVS resources.
- Publish Newsletter issues in April, August, and December.
- Support the VGOS activities within the VTC and the VGOS Operations and Resources group.