The First IVS General Meeting, IVS 2000 General Meeting Proceedings, p.4–5
http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/publications/gm2000/summary

The First IVS General Meeting

The first General Meeting of the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS) was held in Kötzing, Germany on February 21-24, 2000. The purpose of the bi-annual General Meetings is to assemble representatives from all IVS components to share information, hear reports, and plan future activities. The meeting also provides a forum for interaction with other members of the VLBI and Earth science communities. All IVS Associate Members, representing all of the IVS components, are encouraged to attend the General Meetings. Any persons interested in VLBI are also cordially invited to attend these meetings.

The town of Kötzting is located in the Bavarian forest of Germany, close to the Fundamentalstation Wettzell. The host for the meeting was Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG), and the technical sessions were held at the convention center known as the "Haus des Gastes" in Kötzting. All of the arrangements for the meeting were handled by the Local Organizing Committee of Wolfgang Schlüter and Hayo Hase.

The mayor of Kötzting, Wolfgang Ludwig, received an IVS t-shirt in appreciation of the town's support for the General Meeting.

The president of BKG, Deitmar Grünreich, welcomed the participants at the reception. Traditional Bavarian music was provided by the brass band behind him.

At the reception on Sunday evening Wolfgang Schlüter, IVS Chair, gave an address (page 3) welcoming the participants and thanking the town of Kötzting and the district of Cham for all the support they provided for the meeting.

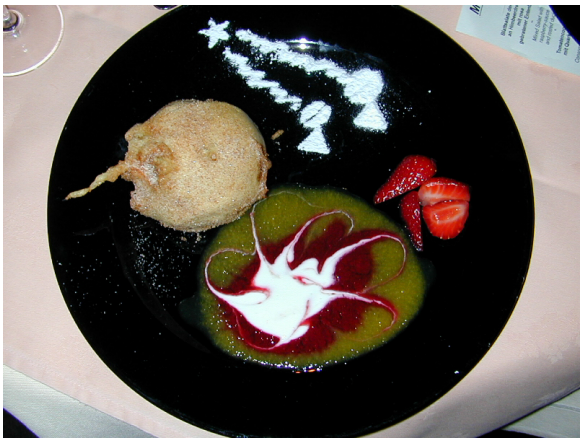
The meeting was extensively covered by the local radio, newspapers, and television stations because of the uniqueness associated with an international meeting in the small town of Kötzting. A press release, prepared (in German) by Wolfgang Schlüter, provided background information for the journalists (pages 6–7). Articles and photographs appeared in the newspapers Kötztinger Zeitung, Kötztinger Umschau, Mittelbayerische Zeitung, Passauer Neue Presse, and Viechtacher Bayerwaldbote. A short report was aired on "Bayern 1" and "Bayern 5" radio stations, and two television stations sent camera crews. A three-minute video was shown on Bavarian-wide television "BR 3" on Thursday evening, including pictures of the Wettzell antenna, shots of speakers at the meeting, and interviews with Wolfgang Schlüter and Nancy Vandenberg.

The registration desk was organized by members of the Wettzell staff. Hannelore Vogl holds a receipt, Richard Kilger is checking the list, and Rudolf Zernecke is delivering an IVS logo t-shirt.

Participants attended all technical sessions in the meeting room of the "Haus des Gastes".

The meeting dinner was held at the Restaurant Gut Schmelmerhof, a former large farm house, in the village of Rettenbach. The chef prepared an excellent meal, and the highlight was the dessert plate that had elements from the IVS logo.

During the excursion to Wettzell on Thursday morning, participants toured the Wettzell antenna, the TIGO installation, and the laser system. An RFI workshop was held during the afternoon at Wettzell.



The dessert plate at the IVS dinner shows the basic elements of VLBI – two antennas, a quasar, and the radio waves. The intricate sauce design may be a quasar or it might be the Earth's core.

During the excursion to Wettzell, Hayo Hase described the TIGO installation. Hayo was a member of the Local Organizing Committee. Behind him is Armin Böer, another member of the TIGO team.