

IVS Observing Programs 2002–2005

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Abstract

This paper reports on section 6 of the Working Group 2 report. The other sections of the WG2 report are covered in the paper by Harald Schuh (see previous paper).

At its inception IVS had no observing programs of its own and yet it is responsible for generating products. Through 2001 IVS used existing programs including NEOS, CORE, Europe, Intensive. For 2002 the IVS community is implementing its own observing program with the goals to:

- combine requirements of various users for TRF and EOP,
- include all recording technologies,
- include R&D sessions for technique improvement,
- include CRF sessions for monitoring,
- maintain continuity with previous programs,
- improve global coverage with more stations.

Targeted areas of improvement via the observing programs are: improved accuracy of results, reduced time delay from observing to availability of results, and frequency of sessions.

There are three types of resources available for observing programs: station time, correlator time, and recording media. It is expected that station time will become most precious resource in the next few years.

The highlights of the IVS observing program in future years include:

- 2002: two rapid-turnaround sessions per week (replacing NEOS and CORE), monthly 8-station TRF session, monthly session using S2, monthly R&D sessions, CONT02 campaign
- 2003: increase rapid sessions to eight stations, begin a bi-weekly weekend session, increase S2 sessions to bi-weekly
- 2004: begin weekly weekend observing
- 2005: full 7-day program

Please refer to the full WG2 report at Schuh, H. and 12 co-authors: IVS Working Group 2 for Product Specification and Observing Programs - Final Report (Feb. 13, 2002). In: IVS Annual Report 2001 ed. by N.R. Vandenberg and K.D. Baver, NASA, 2002.