Preface

This volume is the proceedings of the third General Meeting of the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS), held in Ottawa, Canada, February 9–11, 2004. The contents of this volume also appear on the IVS web site at

`http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/publications/gm2004`

The third General Meeting was held at the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa, Canada. The meeting was hosted by the Geodetic Survey Division of Natural Resources Canada, an IVS member organization.

The keynote of the third General Meeting was visions for the next decade following the main theme of "Today's Results and Tomorrow's Vision", with a recognition that the outstanding VLBI results available today are the foundation and motivation for the next generation VLBI system requirements. The goal of the meeting was to provide an interesting and informative program for a wide cross section of IVS members, including station operators, program managers, and analysts.

Photographs taken during the meeting are available on the web at

`http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/meetings/gm2004/#Pictures`

This URL will display a section of the 2004 General Meeting web page with links to pages of photographs taken by several of the meeting's participants.

The April 2004 issue of the IVS Newsletter has a feature article about the meeting. The Newsletter is available at

`http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/newsletter/issue8.pdf`

This volume contains the following:

- **Welcome address.** This section contains the welcome address from Natural Resources Canada.
- **The papers presented at the meeting.** There are six major sections of this volume, each corresponding to a meeting session. Poster and oral papers are mixed. This volume includes 99 papers, as well as the abstracts of two papers that were not provided for publication. Poster papers about IVS component status are not included in this volume; they have been published in the 2003 Annual Report, available on the web.
- **A splinter meeting report.** Included is a report about the fifth Analysis Workshop.
- **A list of registered participants.**
- **The meeting program.**
- **An author index.**