

IGS

**International GPS Services
for Geodynamics**

1997 Technical Reports

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IGS Central Bureau

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
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Abstract

Applications of the Global Positioning System (GPS) to Earth Science are numerous. The International GPS Service (IGS), a federation of government agencies and universities, plays an increasingly critical role in support of GPS-related research activities. Contributions from the IGS Governing Board and Central Bureau, analysis and data centers, station operators, and others constitute the 1997 Annual Report. This report has a companion publication, the 1997 Technical Reports. Hard copies of each volume can be obtained by contacting the IGS Central Bureau at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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Contents

Introduction	ix
1 Executive Reports	
The Development of the IGS in 1997 -The Governing Board's Perspective	3
<i>Gerhard Beutler</i>	
Activities of the IGS Central Bureau in 1997	7
<i>Ruth Neilan</i>	
Recommendations and Action Items - IGS Governing Board Retreat	9
<i>Ivan Mueller</i>	
2 Analysis Center Reports	
Analysis Coordinator Report	23
<i>J. Kouba and Y. Mireault</i>	
Analysis Centers	
Code Analysis Center of the IGS	73
<i>M. Rothacher, T.A. Springer, et al.</i>	
The ESA/ESOC IGS Analysis Centre	89
<i>T. J. Martin Mur, J. M. Dow, et al</i>	
GFZ Analysis Center of the IGS - Annual Report 1997	99
<i>Gerd Gendt, Galina Dick, et al.</i>	
JPL IGS Analysis Center Report, 1997	109
<i>D. C. Jefferson, Y. E. Bar-Sever, et al.</i>	
NRCan IGS Analysis Centre Report, 1997	117
<i>P. Tétreault, C. Huot, et al.</i>	
Scripps Orbit and Permanent Array Center 1997 Analysis Center Report	123
<i>Peng Fang, Matthijs van Domselaar, et al.</i>	
Associate Analysis Centers	
<u>GNAACs</u>	
The Newcastle Global Network Associate Analysis Center Annual Report	139
<i>Ra'ed Kwar, Geoffrey Blewitt, et al.</i>	
MIT T2 Associate Analysis Center Report	149
<i>Thomas A. Herring</i>	
GNAAC Coordinate Comparisons at JPL for GPS Weeks 813-964	155
<i>M B Heflin, D C Jefferson, et al</i>	

RNAACs

The EUREF RNAAC: 1997 Annual Report.....159
Carine Bruyninx, et al

**Report of the Regional Network Associate Analysis Center
for Far-East Asia**165
K. Murakami

**The PGC Regional Network Associate
Analysis Centre: 1997 Annual Report**.....167
H. Dragert, J. Henton, et al

Annual Report 1997 of the RNAAC SIRGAS.....173
Wolfgang Seemüller and Hermann Drewes

Rapid Service and Prediction

**U.S. Naval Observatory Center
for Rapid Service and Predictions**.....177
J.R. Ray, J.R. Rohde, et al

IERS Contributions

**IERS References
Contribution of the Central Bureau of IERS**.....185
C. Boucher, D. Gambis,, et al

3 Data Center Reports

Global Centers

CDDIS Global Data Center Report.....197
Carey E. Noll

**Scripps Orbit and Permanent Array Center
1997 Global Data Center Report**211
Jeff Dean, Yehuda Bock, et al

Regional/Operational Centers

BKG Regional IGS Data Center Report219
Heinz Habrich

4 Network and Station Reports

Global, Regional, and Local Networks

**AUSLIG 1997 IGS Annual Report
Networks & Stations**.....227
M. R. Hendy

**The GPS Receiver Network of ESOC: Malindi, Maspalomas,
Kourou, Kiruna, Perth and Villafranca**.....231
C.Garcia-Martinez, T.Martin-Mur, et al

GPS Global Network Operations at JPL and the UNAVCO Facility	239
<i>S. Fisher, D. Stowers, et al</i>	
<u>Individual Stations</u>	
Status of the IGS Stations Provided by the Norwegian Mapping Authority in 1997	245
<i>Svein Rekkedal and Hans-Peter Plag</i>	
UPAD Status Report for 1997	247
<i>Alessandro Caporali</i>	
Report on IGS Global Station Jozefoslaw (JOZE)	249
<i>Janusz Sledzinski</i>	
The BOR1 IGS Station	251
<i>M. Lehmann, L. Jaworski</i>	
Peculiarity of POL2, SELE GPS Stations Operations	253
<i>Alexandr Matix, Yuri Trapeznikov</i>	
5 Pilot Projects/Committees	
GLONASS IGEX-98 Campaign IGS 1997 Annual Report	257
<i>Pascal Willis</i>	
IGS/BIPM Time Transfer Pilot Project	259
<i>J. Ray</i>	
IGS Combination of Tropospheric Estimates -- The Pilot Experiment	265
<i>Gerd Gendt</i>	
1997 IGS Activities in the Area of the Ionosphere	271
<i>J. Feltens</i>	
IGS Infrastructure Committee Report	273
<i>Yehuda Bock</i>	
Continuous GPS Positioning of Tide Gauges: Some Preliminary Considerations	287
<i>Michael Bevis</i>	

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Introduction

The U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) constellation of satellites plays a major role in regional and global studies of Earth. In the face of continued growth and diversification of GPS applications, the worldwide scientific community has made an effort to promote international standards for GPS data acquisition and analysis, and to deploy and operate a common, comprehensive global tracking system.

As part of this effort, the International GPS Service for Geodynamics (IGS) was established by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) in 1993 and began formal operation in January 1994. The IGS, with a multinational membership of organizations and agencies, provides GPS orbits, tracking data, and other data products in support of geodetic and geophysical research. In particular, since January 1994, the IGS has made available to its user community the IGS official orbit, based on contributions from the seven current IGS Analysis Centers. The IGS also supports a variety of governmental and commercial activities and develops international GPS data standards and specifications.

Highly accurate and reliable data and data products supplied by the IGS meet the demands of a wide range of applications and experimentation. They can be accessed on the Internet through the Information System maintained by the IGS Central Bureau, which is sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and managed for NASA by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of the California Institute of Technology. In 1996, the IGS became a member of the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS).

The Central Bureau Information System can be accessed using the World Wide Web (WWW) or via anonymous File Transfer Protocol (FTP) as follows:

- WWW — <http://igscb.jpl.nasa.gov>
- FTP — [igscb.jpl.nasa.gov](ftp://igscb.jpl.nasa.gov) (or 128.149.70.171)

Use the directory `/igscb`. See `README.TXT` for online help, and `TREE.TXT` and `IGSCB.DIR` for directory and file information.

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