

IGS

**International GPS Services
for Geodynamics**

1997 Technical Reports

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IGS Central Bureau

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
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Edited by

Ivan Mueller
Ruth Neilan
Ken Gowey

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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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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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