

On the Establishment of International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry

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The International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS) is an international collaboration of organizations which operate or support VLBI components and it was established in March, 1999. The primary objective of IVS is to foster VLBI programs as a joint service to support geodetics, geophysical, astrometric, and other research and operational activities. This is accomplished through close coordination to provide high-quality VLBI data and products. In particular IVS interacts closely with the International Earth Rotation Service (IERS) which is tasked by the IAU and IUGG with maintaining the international celestial and terrestrial reference frames and with monitoring Earth rotation.

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The IVS components are the following: Network Stations, Operation Centers, Correlators, Analysis Centers, Data Centers, Technology Development Centers, Coordinating Center, Directing Board, Associate Members, and Corresponding Members. So far 16 (Japan, China, U.S.A., Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Russia, Ukraine, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, South Africa) countries are participated in each component.

From Japan, the National Astronomical Observatory (NAO), the National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR), the Geographical Survey Institute (GSI), and the Communications Research Laboratory (CRL) are participated in network stations (NAO, NIPR, GSI, CRL), correlators (GSI, CRL), data center(CRL), and technology development center (CRL). The directing board consists of 13 members (president: W.Schlueter) and two of them were elected from Japan (GSI and CRL).