
GGOS Bureau for Standards and Conventions

Report for GGOS SC15

April 18, 2009, Vienna

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GGOS issued Calls for Participation in order to complement its structure with the addition of four components.

The Forschungsgruppe Satellitengeodäsie (FGS) responded with a proposal for the GGOS Bureau for Standards and Conventions (BSC) that was accepted at the SC14.

FGS is a consortium of several institutions involved in geodetic research:

- the Forschungseinrichtung Satellitengeodäsie (FESG) and the Institut für Astronomische und Physikalische Geodäsie (IAPG) of Technische Universität München (TUM), Germany,
- the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG), Frankfurt a. M., Germany,
- the Deutsches Geodätisches Forschungsinstitut (DGFI), Munich, Germany,
- and the Institut für Geodäsie und Geoinformation (IGG), Universität Bonn, Germany.



GGOS Bureau for Standards and Conventions

The Bureau is jointly operated by FESG, DGFI and IAPG.

- Head: Urs Hugentobler
- Secretary: Detlef Angermann
- Additional members:

Johannes Bouman, Michael Gerstl, Thomas Gruber,
Burghard Richter, Peter Steigenberger

With its members the BSC provides profound expertise in the areas of space gravimetry, reference frames, and Earth rotation.



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Objectives of the BSC are

- to keep track of the strict observance of adopted geodetic standards, standardized units, fundamental physical constants, resolutions and conventions in the generation of the products issued by the IAG Services;
- to regularly control data sets released by the geodetic services;
- to review, examine and evaluate all standards, constants, resolutions and conventions adopted by IAG or its components and recommend their use or propose the necessary updates;
- to identify gaps, inconsistencies, and deficiencies in standards and conventions and to initiate steps to close them;
- to propose the adoption of new standards and conventions as far as necessary;
- to propagate standards and conventions to the wider scientific community and promote their use.



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The work of the BSC is thus directed at

- the geodetic community to assure that a consistent set of standards and conventions is used on the one hand, and
- the broader scientific community and society in general by promoting the use of such consistent geodetic standards on the other hand.

It is not necessarily the task of the BSC to design new standards and conventions but to take actions when new standards and conventions emerge within the geodetic community.

To fulfill its mission the BSC works closely together with experts in the field. Experts in standards and conventions are welcome to participate.

It maintains regular contact and establishes a strong interface with all the IAG Services and Commissions and international bodies involved in the adoption of standards, resolutions, and conventions.



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Passed activities:

- A Kick-Off meeting of the BSC took place on March 11, 2009, at DGFI where status, objectives and next steps were discussed by the Bureau members.
- As a first task the Draft Terms of Reference were composed that are submitted to the Steering Committee together with this report.

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Planned activities:

- After approval of the Terms of Reference, first actions will be to contact the representatives of the IAG Services and Commissions as well as of international bodies concerned with standardization such as CODATA, BIPM, ISO/TC211, and to announce the existence of the GGOS BSC and its objectives.
- First contacts with ISO/TC211 were already established at AGU in December 2008.
- As a next step the relevant resolutions concerned with geodetic standards and conventions used by different entities will be collected, and an inventory of used constants will be compiled.
- In the following, possible inconsistent use by the Services and its impact on products will be evaluated. One example is the different handling of permanent tides by the geometric and the gravimetric Services.



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Planned activities (continued):

- Anybody interested in contributing to the work of the BSC is invited to cooperate. For specific tasks the BSC intends to set up dedicated working groups of experts.
- An important activity will consist of promotion of the use of consistent geodetic conventions and standards in the broader scientific community. For this purpose the BSC will set up a web page at the GGOS Portal to highlight its mission and goals.
- This activity will in future also include the participation at conferences, submission of papers to journals in neighboring fields, and organization of dedicated workshops.
- At the IAG General Assembly in Buenos Aires, a presentation entitled "GGOS Bureau for Standards and Conventions: Integrated Standards and Conventions for Geodesy" is foreseen for the GGOS session.

